

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Patrick Taber <ptaber@logiccraft.com>
Subject: [2155] Re:
Message-ID: <1.5.4.32.19961017172454.00982aec@freebird>

At 10:01 AM 10/17/96 -0700, you wrote:
>> Date: Wed, 16 Oct 1996 13:15:04 -0600
>> From: Paul Harden <pharden@aoc.nrao.edu>
>> To: fifield@lan.nsc.com
>> Cc: qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU
>> Subject: [2043] Re: S-Meter Standard?
>> Message-ID: <199610161915.NAA09998@zia.aoc.nrao.edu>
>Cecil and Paul conspired to write:
>
>> For what it's worth ...
>>
>> >An S-unit is a change in signal strength VOLTAGE of 6dB.
>
>Is that 6 Imperial decibels or 6 metric decibels?
>
"deciBel" -- must be metric. If it was Imperial it would be "hectareBel".
(And if it came from Asia Minor it would be the "alexandriaBel" with 1,000
of them making an "alexandriaGrandBel".... ooooh.)

>>>==>PStJTT

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: wa5whn@juno.com (Jay D Miller)
Subject: [2187] "QST", Nov., '96 issue, "Field Day" results, page 96
Message-ID: <19961017.150523.4551.8.wa5whn@juno.com>

Dear Fellow QRP Compadres,

Holy Cow ! My Old Shipmate, K0FRP & Crew, devastated the competition
(Ref: page 101, "2A Battery"). Way to go Gals & Guys, in Colorado...

N6WG & Crew did not do too bad either (8A battery #1), nice job.

Alot of familier calls in the 1B-1 Op Battery category, that I recognize
too, including my Lovely Bride's (WB5LYJ). :-)

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: jim hale <kj5tf@mctc.com>
Subject: [2144] 49er Round Up Monday
Message-ID: <32667D7E.10CB@mctc.com>

Hi fellow QRP'ers.

Every monday, 7:30PM local time the Arkansas QRP Club meets
on 3.560mHz, and has for a year now.

This coming monday 10/21/96 after the net, at about 8PM, several of us
will QSY with our 49ers to 7.040 - 7.045mHz.

We invite all of you to join the net and QSY with us! QRO, QRP, or 49ers
are all welcome. Listen for Ken K5ID, Bob W0LK, and Jim KJ5TF with our
49ers. Thanks! 72/3'z de Jim

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: John Dorson K2JHU Real Estate Consultant <jdorson@bbs.mpcs.com>
Subject: [2108] 8044 chip
Message-ID: <199610171159.HAA14773@bbs.mpcs.com>

Hi gang.

does anyone have a 8044 keyer chip they would like to part with. I was
building a mini keyer when the supply dried up before i could get one...
John Dorson Real Estate Consultant in Brevard County Florida
E-Mail To: jdorson@bbs.mpcs.com

| Trying for WAS - AL,AK,AZ,AR,CA,CO,CT,FL,GA,IL,IA,KS,KY,LA,ME,MD,MA|
| MI,MN,MT,NH,NJ,NY,NC,ND,OH,OK,OR,PA,RI,TX,VT,VA,WA|
WI

K2JHU only QRP... CQC #351, GQRP # 9092,

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Paul Stroud <aa4xx@amsat.org>
Subject: [2208] 80M Roundtable

Message-ID: <3266F696.20EE@amsat.org>

Gang,

Thanks for the tremendous turnout for the October 13th session of the 80M KnightLites Roundtable. We had many check-ins, as you can see from the following list.

Welcome to newcomers VE3JC (John), W2JK (Joe), W8DN (Mike), AA7WT (Malcolm), W1UI (Jerry), WB4LZQ (Kim), KI4PZ (Rick), N2VPK (Mark), and KE4IZH (Rick). Speaking of newcomers, I about fell out of my seat when AA7WT signed in from Montana. Nice job, indeed, Malcolm!

The "MightyLite" Awards for this session go to N3GO and KI4PZ, who checked in with 25 mW and 750 mW respectively. It's always fun to hear you flea power dudes checking in with itsy-bitsy power levels.

We hope we got everyone logged in OK; However, there were a few very weak stations who may not have made it in. This is a good time to get that new 80M antenna up--just in time for those long, quiet Winter nights on 80M. You can see from the list that the Knights are using a variety of antennas. Maybe one of them will appeal to you.

The Roundtable meets each Sunday night on 3710 KHz (+/- QRM) at 0200Z (10 PM EDT). Hope to see you Sunday!

Roundtable, October 13th, 1996

N1QQV	Ken	Madison,	CT	579	5W	QRP+,	G5RV @ 60'
N1RXT	Chuck	Chelmsford,	MA	349	5W	FT-840,	G5RV
AD4ZE	Warren	Cary,	NC	599+	5W	TS-450,	Dipole
AA1BK	Steve	Raleigh,	NC	449	5W	TT-C21,	Attic Dipole
VE3JC	John	Delaware,	ON	449	5W	QRP+,	Dipole
AE4EW	Terry	Hardy,	VA	599	5W	TS-130,	G5RV
AA6UL	Ralph	Charlottesville,	VA	449	1W	OHR-HP,	Dipole
WJ2V	Preston	Lawrence,	NY	349		Sierra	
WA50ES	Art	Longmont,	CO	339	5W		Dipole
W2JK	Joe	Nr Wilmington?	NC	329	5W		
WB8ZJL	Paul	Oakland Township,	MI	339			
N3GO	Gary	Raleigh,	NC	339	25mW		Dipole
AE4IC	Bob	Greensboro,	NC	599+	5W	NW80,	Horiz Loop
W8DN	Mike	Celina,	OH	339	4W	IC-745,	Inv L
N8VAR	Ron	Huber Heights,	OH	349	5W		
KF2PH	Nick	Patchogue,	NY	459	2W	NW80,	Vert
AA7WT	Malcolm	Bozeman,	MT	229			
W1UI	Jerry	Rossville,	GA	449	4W	QRP+,	Loop
WB4LZQ	Kim	Piedmont,	SC	339	5W	TR-7,	Inv Vee @ 50'

VE3SP	Ron	Hamilton,	ON	559	5W	IC-735, Vert
WZ2T	Rick	Duane,	NY	229	5W	KNWD, 40M Loop
KI4PZ	Rick	High Point,	NC	569	750mW	
KF8EE	Ted	Loveland,	OH	569	5W	Argo II
N4ELM	Dave	Raleigh,	NC	599		
KE4RU0	Jim	Angier,	NC	599+	8W	
WA4NID	Dave	Durham,	NC	449	5W	TS-440, McCoy Dipole
N2VPK	Mark	Clarence,	NY	349		
N2TNN	Dean	Somerset,	NJ	589	1W	QRP+, Dipole
K3TKS	Danny	Silver Spring,	MD	599+	1W	QRP+, Horiz Loop
WA8LCZ	Byron	Warren,	MI	349	5W	Gap Vert
N4EUK	Steve	Reston,	VA	459	5W	
KE4IZH	Rick	Chesapeake,	VA	329	1.8W	Sierra, St. Louis Vert
AA4XX	Paul	Raleigh,	NC	(NCS)	5W	FT-757, 80M Windom @60'

72 de AA4XX

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
 From: "Jim Wilson-EJW012" <Jim_Wilson-EJW012@email.mot.com>
 Subject: [2132] ? Measuring microvolt RF

From: Wilson-EJW012 Jim on Thu, Oct 17, 1996 11:37 AM
 Subject: ? Measuring microvolt RF

Measuring RF at the microvolt level?

1. I would like to do some stage-gain and sensitivity tests on my R390As. I

have assorted surplus test equipment (HP606A, HP410C, HP3455A, etc.) but don't trust them at the high frequency and microvolt levels. What are you guys doing to measure high-freq at microvolt level. My thinking is that I could measure RF output of the 606A at a 'high' level and then step it down

with an HP attenuator (355C/D) to the desired microvolt level. If done right, that should allow me to control the signal in, but I still lack a good way to measure RF level in the early stages.

2. Can anyone recommend a good surplus RF Voltmeter with good sensitivity (10 microvolt?) and good frequency response (100Hz - 500Mhz/1 GHz?)

Thanks,
 Jim Wilson
 email: EJW012@email.mot.com

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Allen Jones <ajones@adsnet.com>
Subject: [2176] ARCI Contest Logging SW
Message-ID: <1.5.4.16.19961017155226.2faf1086@206.158.2.1>

Does anyone know of a logging program (shareware if available) that will handle the QRP ARCI contests? I bought the latest update of Log-EQF which can be customized for most contests for the logging and duping but requires a manual process to handle score calculation. I also have an older version of CT (ver 7.x).

Thanks in advance.

72 de Allen, K9DZE
ajones@adsnet.com

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: "Seabury Lyon, AA1MY" <SSLYON@postoffice.worldnet.att.net>
Subject: [2211] ARCI Contest Logging SW
Message-ID: <19961018035943.AAA20472@LOCALNAME>

>Reply-To: ajones@adsnet.com
>Sender: owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU
>From: Allen Jones <ajones@adsnet.com>
>To: "Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion" <qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU>
>Subject: ARCI Contest Logging SW
>X-Sender: ajones@206.158.2.1
>X-Listprocessor-Version: 8.0 -- ListProcessor(tm) by CREN
>Date: Thu, 17 Oct 96 20:51:31 +0000
>

>Does anyone know of a logging program (shareware if available) that will
>handle the QRP ARCI contests? I bought the latest update of Log-EQF which
>can be customized for most contests for the logging and duping but requires
>a manual process to handle score calculation. ***

Looking at Log-Eqf V 8.13 I'd say it's a natural. Very user friendly... perhaps some trial versions customized for QRP could be beta-tested until a satisfactory common format could be adopted. Sure would simplify collection/evaluation at contest HQ. 73 =s=

Seabury "Seab" Lyon AA1MY
44 Codfish Hill Road
Bethel, CT, 06801, USA

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: camqrp@cyberg8t.com (Cam Hartford)
Subject: [2174] ARCI Fall QSO Party
Message-ID: <199610172013.NAA27604@key.cyberg8t.com>

Gang -

I have two team entries to date. If you get together a team, please e-mail me the roster before the start-o-proceedings.

Just to confirm two mislaid rules -

- 1) Work a maximum of 24 of the 36 hours, and
- 2) CW only. Phone contest comes along in January.

Good chance to work N4BP on Bermuda.

See You There --

Cam N6GA

Sheesh! Has the sun shown any spots lately? I never knew it went as low as "0".

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Steve Bornstein <saborns@freenet.columbus.oh.us>
Subject: [2147] ATTENTION OHIO QRP OPS
Message-ID: <Pine.3.07.9610171236.A25894-91000000@login>

ATTENTION OHIO QRP OPS

Is there any interest in forming an Ohio QRP Club. I am located in Columbus and would gladly volunteer to help out. Perhaps we could have an informal get together discuss the possibility.

73, Steve K8IDN QRP-L #331

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: bkmak@airmail.net (Bob Kmak)
Subject: [2162] Bad news for Dallas-area hams
Message-ID: <m0vDwli-000F4fC@mail.airmail.net>

Gang,

This was in a message just posted to the cq-contest mailing list:

> FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
>
> PRESS RELEASE
>
> HAM RADIO OUTLET PURCHASES HAM RADIO ASSETS OF TUCKER ELECTRONICS OF
> TEXAS OCTOBER 16TH 1996.
>
> Ham Radio Outlet, the world's largest Ham Radio Equipment dealer,
> announced today it had agreed to purchase substantially all the Ham
> Radio
> Equipment assets of Tucker Electronics and the Ham Radio assests of
> Oklahoma Comm Center which was aquired in July by Tucker.
>
> Ham Radio Outlet will not be occupying the current Tucker store location
> as all Ham Radio sales activity at Tucker will cease on October 16th.
> Ham
> Radio Outlet plans to consolidate Tucker's retail and mail order
> operation with Ham Radio Outlet's New Hampshire store location. Tucker's
> 1-800-559-7388 telephone number will be answered by Ham Radio Outlet's
> New Hampshire store at this time. Ham Radio Outlet will continue to
> market the "Tucker" Brand of accessories.
>
> Ham Radio Outlet will be aquiring new locations and will announce plans
> shortly.
>
> For further information contact:
>
> Bob Ferrero, W6RJ
> President HRO
> (510) 831-1771
>
>

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Scott Bauer <ke3nv@erols.com>
Subject: [2207] big QRP sale
Message-ID: <199610180238.WAA10487@smtp2.erols.com>

Cleaning house, all must go. FOR SALE !

ARK-20 with keyer \$210.00
ARK-30 with keyer \$210.00 reciever modified by S&S
ARK-40 with keyer \$210.00
TAC 1 (80 meters)\$210.00 with keyer & rear panel mounted pot for variable
power output (0 - 5 watts } mod by S&S.

All are in A-1 mint contition with manuals. All were aligned by Dick at S&S.
This price includes shipping and insurance.

For sale. GQ-40. This is a club project from G-QRP club. The case has not
been painted yet. The rig is working fine except for the delay. This rig has
RIT,
AF gain, IF gain, variable RF out and lots and lots of audio power.
Im asking \$130.00 shipped for this one.

Code Boy keyer with case, mint condition. About the same size as a pack of
cigarettes. has auto spacing for straight key mode (really fun) and calibrated
speed control. \$25.00 shipped.

I will sell these on a first come, first served basis. The shipping price is
for the lower 48 states. DX, please inquire.

ps, Im only selling these because my YL blew the engine in her Toyota, Ill
be back !

72/73, Scott..

.....
Fists 1502, ARCI 8804, G-QRP 8773, Nor-Cal 1094, NE 348, CQC 352

Scott Bauer ke3nv@erols.com

.....

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: ka7you@juno.com
Subject: [2101] Cable splicing tape
Message-ID: <19961016.234557.7142.6.KA7YOU@juno.com>

Greetings from the wet side of CN97 (Washington-The State)

I've been using Scotch #23 Splicing Tape for my antenna cable connections for many years. I first learned of it 30 years ago while in the Navy. I had to waterproof RF Cables in the periscope towers in the submarines. That area is in saltwater, and under pressure!

This Splicing tape comes in 3/4 inch wide rolls that are 30 feet long.

Other widths are available also, so I'm told. It is a self-fusing (vulcanizing) insulating tape that is stretched before application until it is about 2/3 of it's original width. It is also rated to 130 deg Centigrade.

The connector is wrapped with a 1/2 wrap overlap, and the tape bonds (fuses) to itself. It is about the consistency of a gummy rubber band when applied, but sticks and seals VERY well. Extra weather protection can be provided with an overwrap of regular vinyl electrical tape if needed. The manufacturer recommends Scotch #33+, or #88 or #22 of course!

It is available at most major industrial electrical supply houses. In the Seattle area, it is available at North Coast Electric. It is \$9 per roll - list price and I have seen it go across the counter for as little as \$7 if you can convince the counter man that you are an industrial user! That probably means that you have to have connections with someone who has an account with them.

It is so much easier to use than Coax Seal (except where you just want to wad a ball of putty around something), and so much cheaper (30 feet unstretched) that I can see no reason to buy the other stuff. Also, you don't have to scrape it off your fingers! A 12 inch piece, before stretching, will double wrap an inline splice, with plenty left over. Also, unlike

regular

electrical tape, because of the large amount of stretch which the tape can

accomodate, (up to 10 times it's length) it makes wrapping diameter transitions very easy. A piece of RG-58 into an N connector is no problem.

Try it, I'm sure you will like it!

Rod Johnson KA7YOU NWQRP#120

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996

From: Greg Newberry <newberry@cyberhighway.net>

Subject: [2210] Coax as balanced feeder?

Message-ID: <32670B6A.599E@cyberhighway.net>

Hi,

I want to put up an antenna using balanced feeders but getting them in the house isn't an options. Metal roof, metal siding, patio's, etc. A few years back I remember an article using 2 equal runs of very low loss coax to act as a balanced feed system for an antenna.

What I'd like to know is:

Has anyone done this?

What would be the best coax?

How would you handle the braid? Tie together at each end and ground the transmitter end?

What would be the impedance of something like this?

Would the spacing of the coax pair even be an issue?

If I used about a 30 ft run I could get it into the clear for connection to real ladder line. I know the losses are there, but with a high grade of coax and a short run would this have acceptable losses? I don't want to loose much running QRP.

Thanks

-

Greg Newberry - WB7DUO QRP-L #760

newberry@cyberhighway.net

newberrg{dhwtowers/regional/newberrg}@dhw.state.id.us

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996

From: Greg Weinfurtner <weinfurtner@ouvaxa.cats.ohiou.edu>

Subject: [2165] Diode mixer question...

Message-ID: <v03007802ae8c1d885742@[132.235.72.11]>

Gang,

Just finished a VLF converter that had a diode ring mixer. I'm currently using some 1n914 diodes. I hope to be able to copy the Alexanderson Alternator transmission with it. Then it is on to the 160khz to 190khz band for the winter.

While showing it to NJ8V, Dewey, who works in an other building here at the Big School, he asked why I didn't try germanium diodes in the ring. He said that since they had a lower forward drop, they may be a better choice.

My eyes glazed over as I thought for an answer... "Too much capacitance...? ummm, too much reverse leakage...?"

"If they were good, they would have been used by now...", was the only sensible answer I could come up with.

Any want to venture a guess, I mean, tell why germaniums aren't good?

```
*****
*                                     Greg Weinfurtner AEE BSS *
* NN      N  SSSSSSS  8888888  0000000 Electronic Design Splst *
* N N     N  S        8      8  0      0 Ohio University  Athens *
* N N     N  SSSSSSS  8888888  0      0 GO BOBCATS!             *
* N      N N          S  8      8  0      0                     *
* N      NN  SSSSSSS  8888888  0000000                         *
*                                                                 *
*                                     Can thou send forth lightnings *
* Amateur Radio                that they may go and say unto *
* DXCC WAS EM89  QRP-L #297    thee, 'Here we are'? Job 38:35 *
* weinfurtner@ouvaxa.cats.ohiou.edu                               *
* http://ouvaxa.cats.ohiou.edu/~weinfurtner                      *
*****
```

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: ROYGREGSON@aol.com
Subject: [2145] EMTECH-NW series info
Message-ID: <961017124258_1380457516@emout07.mail.aol.com>

Hi gang.....Hate to admit it, but the computer illiterate was in charge last

night, and pushed the key that dumped several snail mail addresses wanting more info on the NW series of radios into a black hole never to be found again.

So if you were among that group, please resend your snail mail address again. I'll be happy to send a packet of free literature.

Thanks to all.....EMTECH

72'S/73'S Roy

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996

From: plquick@facstaff.wisc.edu (Paulette Quick, WB9VHF)

Subject: [2173] Female qrpers?

Message-ID: <v02110102ae8bf0fb92d4@[144.92.104.140]>

Joe, KC7NEV:

you said:

>Then again I'm

>not sure I've ever met an active female ham in the four

>years I've been licensed.

Well! then you've never been to the Four Lakes Amateur Radio Club in Madison, Wisconsin, where there are lots of female hams, some XYs to OMs and others simply single ladies like myself.

As far as more women engineers/programmers resulting in more hams....I've met quite a few *men* who would make great radio people but who direct their technical interests in directions other than rf generation and detection.

Then there's our own Laura Halliday, VE7LDH, who contributes many erudite and interesting stories of her radio construction adventures (she's been working with surface mount technology lately). She's an engineer who really understands electronics and can communicate the process well.

The list hasn't heard from me lately due to the usual business. I am working a full time 40/hr/wk job in addition to a half-time job of up to 18/hr/wk plus taking a four credit Intermediate Algebra class. And my landlord is selling her house so my antenna is down :(and I've spent my free time sorting and packing (I move on Dec. 1 to a place by myself where I can have antennas and BIRDS) and as I speak I am single-handedly acting as secretary to the Chief Information Officer (CIO) here at the Division of Information Technology (DoIT) as well as my usual stuff for the Deputy Director and the Strategic Consulting staff (due to family emergencies and illness of other secretaries).

I'm ok (as long as I study for that huge Algebra test on Monday) but actual free time is rare.

I hope to take the math through Calculus and then do something with electrical engineering and/or computers. All the while working as many hours as I can.

It's interesting...when I saw the movie Apollo 13 (with my ham friends, of course) my first thought was "god, how I love this stuff." John Glenn was my childhood hero (and so was Walter Cronkite--I went into Journalism). Years ago I identified with and wanted to be an astronaut.

Now I identify with all the geeks and nerds and techies (words which I now proudly ascribe to myself) at the control consoles in Houston. I looked at the guys (no women at Mission Control, sigh) and thought, hey they all look like my ham friends, cool! That's my crowd now.

I honestly have no idea why EVERYONE isn't a ham. This really is the world's greatest hobby and I keep believing that once we show this to the world, they'll all want to join in. Such is not the case, but non-hams are missing a whole lot of fun in their lives, I'll say. (I do Radio Evangelism whenever I get the chance--ask me sometime about the Altoids tin at the prayer service.)

So Joe, the women hams and the women qrpers, the few the proud, are out here. Come by and meet us sometime. At Dayton perhaps.

72 es 88

Paulette Quick, WB9VHF

Madison WI

plquick@facstaff.wisc.edu

(Break is Over, Now Back To Work)

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996

From: Dick Schneider <74602.3317@compuserve.com>

Subject: [2090] fox #2

Message-ID: <961017041742_74602.3317_EHH120-1@CompuServe.COM>

Worked the fox!

Got N9DD at 0237, but Marshall, AA0XI, has the rest of the amazing foxhunt story from Denver.

Could not hear WD4MSM at all, until shortly before 0400Z when I was in the car listening to the IC706 and there he was at 7112. I called twice but no luck. Rats!

72 Dick AB0CD..

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Barry Keating <Barry.P.Keating.1@nd.edu>
Subject: [2115] FOX Novice Mortified!
Message-ID: <v03007802ae8bd75ccddc@[129.74.87.62]>

**** Novice Fox Report for Wednesday, October 16th (local date) ****

This is the report of one humble novice fox this morning.

I am truly mortified! The static last night on the 40 meter novice band was bad, but even so I am embarassed to post this short list of contacts. I guarantee that I will snag more the next time around (could I snag any less?).

TIME	STN	NAME	ST	RST	NR	
0211	N2VPK	MARK		NY	349	314
0259	AA7WT	MAL		MT	559	? faded out...
0311	KE4KDT	ROY		KY	559	322
0313	N9DD	TOM	IN	559	32	
0332	K7RBJ	?		NM	?	? heard 3 times...
0349	AE4IC	BOB		NC	229	54

Wow, only 4 contacts with complete information exchange. A hearty thank you to the each of you who attempted contact but were thwarted by static and/or my ability to decipher the signal to noise ratio.

Barry Keating
WD4MSM

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Marshall Emm <75230.1405@CompuServe.COM>
Subject: [2158] Fox Ten Feet over S9

Message-ID: <961017172823_75230.1405_HHB64-6@CompuServe.COM>

Dick (AB0CD) came over last night to help me make some adjustments on the R7, during the course of which it got cold and dark so we decided go fox-hunting. We took turns listening for almost an hour (0100-0200) and every once in a while could hear Tom (N9DD) very faintly, but nowhere near enough propagation to attempt a QSO. We kept at it because 40M has been subject to some long-period QSB and I've heard signals come up out of nothing for a couple minutes to S7-9, after being inaudible for half an hour.

But after a frustrating hour, we decided to give up, go upstairs and have a cup of coffee before Dick headed home. At 0230 we could hear Morse from the rig (in the basement), and

I jokingly said "at least we'll know if Tom fades in." I had no more than said that when the signals very suddenly became very clear and very obviously N9DD. Amazing how fast the two of us got back downstairs and into the shack, scaring hell out of Samson the QRP dog who must have thought it was the end of the world or something. Immediate QSO's and bagged foxes for both of us, no muss, no fuss. I thought about reporting Tom's signal as 10' over S9, but it would have taken too long to explain.[g]

73

Marshall

AA0XI/VK5FN

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996

From: "Ken Freedman" <n1qqv@cshore.com>

Subject: [2102] Fox, TNX Tom

Message-ID: <199610171033.GAA52637@nss2.CC.Lehigh.EDU>

Hi Tom,

I was the N1 that you couldn't pull out of the noise early in the hunt. Your signal started to build here in CT at about 02:30, and we finally made the exchange with a few minutes to spare, although it was still pretty tough sledding. I know you were able to work some other New England stations too, and I'm sure that they are just as pleased as I am to finally be successful. We all appreciate your tenacity and skill. Thanks for hanging in there! I haven't missed a Fox Hunt yet this year, and haven't been able to work one 'til last night.

73, Ken

Ken Freedman

AKA: N1QQV/QRP

VE, EC Madison CT

Living Proof That, "You don't have to be a blonde to be light headed!"

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Bob Hightower <ki7mn@dancris.com>
Subject: [2121] FOX...where did he go?
Message-ID: <199610171414.HAA22046@dancris.com>

Only one small peep from the fox, if foxes peep, that is. QSB QSB QSB, but one time he did surface enough to catch the call, but couldn't get back. One time an N9 came up strong, but the wrong one. The fox (both 40M and novice, stayed in the deep bushes from my QTH. OH, well, maybe next time.

Did hear a ZL1 in there pretty strong, but no contact.

As far as being embarrassed, don't be. If we don't catch you, it isn't your fault...that's the name of the game, HUNT! CU next time around.

73,

Bob KI7MN NorCal 1221 ARCI 8918 Qrp-1 271 CQC 274 ARRL (Not in any order of importance!)

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: "Dan Harriman" <KC5GXL@pnx.com>
Subject: [2095] FOX:
Message-ID: <199610170523.BAA38783@nss2.CC.Lehigh.EDU>

I heard the fox. I caught a glimpse of him.
I shot at him. Must of missed him. Time was 0135 and got a second shot off at 0150. That shot must have spooked him right out of the neighborhood. Good work, Tom. Sounded good down here in southeast Texas.
Didn't here Barry at all. Too much qrm, etc.
Maybe next time
73, de Dan aka kc5gx1 qrp-1 # 431
Orange, Tx EM30

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: facmsa@facilities.buffalo.edu (Adams, Mark S.)
Subject: [2113] FOX: Bagged the Limit!
Message-ID: <1996Oct17.084700.1483.24000@facilities.buffalo.edu>

Wow,

After a few weeks of lousy condx and having to go to bed early, I managed to bag both foxes last night! And both on my first calls no less.

It was surprising to find that the vertical offered better received signals than my delta loop. After all, Indiana is not THAT far from Western NY.

And to Barry, the novice fox, you should get an award for stick-to-it-iveness. If the noise was as bad on you end as it was on mine, your ears will need the equivalent of physical therapy and a hot whirlpool to recover :-)

72, Mark N2VPK
Member of the Buffalo QRP Connection

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Roy Boggs <rboggs@pcc-uky.campus.mci.net>
Subject: [2092] FOX: FB job by WD4MSM
Message-ID: <2.2.32.19961017044515.00ef4f34@pcc-uky.campus.mci.net>

Congratulations to Barry for an excellent job as Fox tonight. I am sure he will be fired up for the rest of the season after this. His signal came up strongest to me at 03:09Z to a nice clear 579. Thanks for the fun Barry and hope you had several Q's. I didn't hear/work N9DD, Tom, but congratulations anyway!

de KE4KDT Roy

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: doster@umr.edu (George Doster)
Subject: [2136] FOX: Heard it; but no more bullets!
Message-ID: <199610171559.KAA16314@hermes.cc.umd.edu>

Well, I heard the fox last night (WD4MSM). Too bad I don't have my 40m dipole up yet! The QSB, QRM, QRN etc. was bad last night. I picked up the last dsp-40 at RS Monday. Without it I would have never heard the Fox.

BTW: I heard the fox in central MO at around 3:16Z - 3:30Z, using a TS-520S hooked up to a long wire running north-south at about 25ft. WD4MSM called CQ CQ FOX DE WD4MSM about 5 times. I didn't hear anyone else at that time.

As soon as it gets cold enough I'll get that dipole up! (It's laying in the yard). Also I got to find or build a key -- hmmm. Seen any cheap ideas for a key lately?

George Jay Doster doster@umr.edu NOPMY
Cloud and Aerosol Sciences Laboratory
Univ. of Missouri - Rolla

QRP-L #739

Disclaimer: All spelling mistakes are my own and not Webster's.

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Bill Myers <bmyers@destin.nfds.net>
Subject: [2093] FOX: Missed Again...
Message-ID: <1.5.4.16.19961017002051.0b0f9d32@destin.nfds.net>

I can't believe it.....

Two nights in a row, and I did not hear the fox...

Tuesday night I heard 5's and 4's...

Tonight I heard 1's, 2's and 3's...

Heard a lot of stations calling the Fox...

Heard a lot of stations talking to the Fox...

No Hear No Fox.....

Did hook up the SLV tonight, it's gonna be fun...

Back on midnights tommorrow, guess I'll have to hunt the Fox again next week.

72/73 es good hunting

--

Bill Myers KK4KF FISTS #2390 QRP-L #755 ARRL
Snail Mail P. O. Box 178
 Shalimar, FL 32579-0178
Grid EM60
e-mail <bmyers@destin.nfds.net>
homepage <http://destin.nfds.net/~bmyers/>

CHECK OUT THE FISTS INTERNATIONAL CW CLUB HOMEPAGE
<http://n9nvv.qrp.com/~fists>
^^^^ That's N 9 N V V

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Bob Kellogg <ae4ic@nr.infi.net>
Subject: [2119] Fox: Novice last night
Message-ID: <199610171347.JAA22342@mh004.infi.net>

Barry,

You did a great job last night. I'd almost given up on hearing you when the QSB God relaxed just a little. Thanks for picking up my weak signal. 5 points!!!

CUL,
Bob Kellogg, AE4IC
Prolably, but not nececelery. - Benny Hill

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Joe Gervais <vole@primenet.com>
Subject: [2096] FOX: Snubbed by the furball
Message-ID: <199610170534.WAA21164@primenet.com>

Greetings All,

So what's worse than struggling for two hours to hear the Fox amidst QRN, QRM, static crashes and heavy QSB? Doing the same while listening to your fellow Arizonies

work him like he's next door. Ouch! Figured after N9DD was done dragging me through the gutter, I'd at least head up to 7113 to give the Novice/Tech+ Fox a point. Nada. Zip. Thank goodness for Baywatch reruns, or the evening would've been a total loss. :-)

Wallowing in humility,

-Joe, KC7NEV, vole@primenet.com, AZ ScQRPions

PS- Hope the rest of you had better luck!

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: "Chris J. Cartwright - ELF" <dsc3cjc@imc220.med.navy.mil>
Subject: [2091] FOX: trots through Maryland
Message-ID: <Pine.3.89.9610170032.A6641-0100000@imc220>

Well, he showed up in MD from about 03:43Z to 03:55Z on 7.112, just trotted by the first five minutes or so and spent the next ten ducking behind bushes and peeking around corners but he was definitely here. Heard him call CQ two or three times. I leveled my double barreled IC-735 at him, and squeezed off two shots, nothing but air :(

Almost had my headphones blown off by ??5ICA or though!! I never did get the entire call (ears were still ringing). But it sounded like "Team Texas" must have pulled out all the attenuators! Can't wait to see the list from the fox!

72

-- Chris Cartwright N3XRV Gaithersburg, MD | dsc3cjc@imc220.med.navy.mil --
-- EMPS QSO's=0 STATES(w/c)=0/0 DX=0 | QRP-L #655 QRP-ARCI #9271 --

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: N9DD@aol.com
Subject: [2205] FOX: Wed Night Prelim Results (Long - but not long enough)
Message-ID: <961017211612_545576343@emout04.mail.aol.com>

Greetings QRPers,

Grueling is the word that comes to mind when I think of my first stint as QRP "FOX".

I definitely had fun, but with the QRN, QSB and QRM, I really had to fight to get alot of the QSOs. I feel like I may have given up too soon on a few QSOs. I apologize to the operators on the other end, but it really got rough at times. I was hoping conditions might improve as the night went on.

I started at 0100 with a quick QSO with W5TFB in Texas (A Good sign for the Texas team, I mused). Then, with QSOs with MT and CA, I realized that the band was long and there might be a good TX-CA battle after all. I had expected lots of TX QSOs but was unsure of CA.

I got 14 QSOs the first 30 minutes. It got rougher after that. I managed 8 or 9 QSOs every half hour from then on. They guys in CO had great signals. But then, I seem to have a pipeline there most nights.

After a couple real tough contacts as my time came to a close, I decided to check out the Novice Fox and see if I could work Barry WD4MSM. I waited while he worked a KY station and then gave him a call. We did it! Although I might not technically have been a FOX at 0312 (My 2 hrs ran from 0100-0300), we did complete a QSO for my first Novice Fox. Barry sounded like he was doing a fine job. He'll have his General (or more) in no time.

So here is my preliminary log. Please send me any corrections you might find. If my handwritten log matches what you say should be there, I'll make the change. If it is a matter of me just not getting the info, sorry, but we just didn't make it. Guys, there's lots of the thrill of victory and agony of defeat to come :-).

Time	Call	His	My	State	Name	Nr/Pwr	
0100	W5TFB	449	559	TX	Jack	282	
0103	AA7WT	559	559	MT	Mal	2W	
0104	K1MG	449	449	CA	Mike	614	
0106	KK5RO	559	559	OK	Vernon	325	
0107	AE4IC	579	579	NC	Bob	54	(Nice sig Bob!)
0109	N5ET	559	599	TX	Bob	123	
0111	N5OCD	559	559	LA	Brian	324	
0114	W5HNS	559	449	TX	Henry	178	
0115	N6ULU	559	549	CA	Stan	66	
0117	AD4ZE	559	559	NC	Warren	78	
0119	AA2WJ	559	449	TX	Dick	5W	
0123	K5FO	569	559	TX	Chuck	1	(Best I've ever heard you, Chuck)
0124	NQ7X	559	559	AZ	Floyd	343	
0130	VE7SL	449	559	BC	Steve	769	
0135	WA6HHQ	559	559	CA	Eric	4W	
0138	WB8ZJL	579	569	MI	Paul	59	(What skip zone?)
0139	VE3SP	559	569	ONT	Ron	464	
0143	WA5CVM	559	559	ME	Joel	765	(Finally, a North Eastern stn)

0145	KE4YH	559	449	FL	Stew	590	
0148	WA8CDU	559	449	MI	Bill	412	
0152	N2VPK	579	579	NY	Mark	341	(Blows the NE Black Hole Myth)
0154	AA2PF	569	579	NY	Dave	306	(Ditto)
0159	WA1QVM	449	429	MA	Joel	337	
0200	AC5CI	559	559	TX	Homer	5W	
0202	WA5VQK	559	549	TX	Tim	586	
0204	KU7Y	559	449	NV	Ron	17	
0212	VE3JC	589	589	ONT	John	744	
0217	W00Q	559	559	CO	Marty	5W	
0221	KB9IUA	559	559	IL	Kevin	384	(Another Neighbor)
0227	K2VNM	579	589	NY	Bob	5W	
0229	N2YRJ	559	479	NY	Bob	10W	
0235	N0TFI	569	579	CO	Jess	5W	(Here comes Colorado)
0236	AA0XI	569	579	CO	Marshall	153	
0237	AB0CD	569	589	CO	Dick	483	
0239	K6VNX	559	339	CA	Arlen	4W	
0240	KQ6AG	559	549	CA	Dennis	303	
0242	KA1AXY	559	559	MA	Peter	260	
0249	KK6MC	449	339	NM	Jim	411	
0251	N2TNN	559	339	NJ	Dean	560	
0254	N1QQV	459	449	CT	Ken	400	

*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
0312	WD4MSM	449	559	IN	Barry	642	(FOX to FOX QSO!)					

*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Whew! My ears are still crackling. Thanks to everyone for a fun time. See you again in March!

73,

Tom N9DD
South Bend, IN
FOX # 6

p.s. Congrats to the Texas ops - they beat the CA guys 7 to 5. Actually, it was alot closer than I expected.

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: "W. Daniel, 9V1ZV" <daniel@pandora.lugs.org.sg>
Subject: [2138] FOX: Why never on 20?
Message-ID: <32664888.pandora@pandora.lugs.org.sg>

Hi Gang,

I'd like to know why the fox never goes on 20M? I mean, there are foxes on 30 and 40, even 80, so why not on 20? Guys like us in the DX don't stand a chance except on 20. So, whoever's in charge, can we have some sort of International Fox Hunt on 20 reading all the hunt activity sure makes the DX feel left out... :-)

73 de 9V1ZV Daniel

--

```
*-----+-----+
| Daniel Wee | daniel@pandora.lugs.org.sg      |
| 9V1ZV      | danwee@singnet.com.sg                     |
| QRP-L #667 | daniel.wee@f516.n600.z6.fidonet.org      |
+-----+-----+
```

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996

From: "Michael A. Gipe" <mgipe@reliablemeters.com>

Subject: [2154] Fox: XYL's question

Message-ID: <199610171722.MAA07973@multi2.pic.net>

My wife asked me a very good question last night: "Are there any vixen in the hunt? If not, why not?"

I couldn't answer.

Mike K1MG

Saratoga, CA

Fox World Series leaders

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996

From: "J. Skalski" <jskalski@acsu.buffalo.edu>

Subject: [2204] FOX:Tx/CA and wire

Message-ID: <Pine.GS0.3.93.961017205728.16926B-100000@destrier.acsu.buffalo.edu>

Well I think the fox wars will be heating up.

I have been able to compile some statistics that may shed some light on the Fox wars between Californian and Texan Qrp'ers.

As the strategists discuss their plans on the landline.....
others are busy making antenna plans.

The current wire tally reveals that the Californians are buying Teflon

wire at a rate that is almost 6 times greater than the Texans.

73,

Jim N2GO
The Buffalo QRP CONNECTION
ARCI #9013 QRP-L #381
jskalski@acsu.Buffalo.EDU

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: wdzeares@rockdal.aud.alcatel.com (W. Dennis Zeares)
Subject: [2149] FOX? What FOX???
Message-ID: <9610171700.AA21527@aud.alcatel.com>

I hear there were two foxes last night.
I couldn't find them!!!
So whats the score now for TX vs CA???
72, dennis k3ets, Dallas

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Joe Gervais <vole@primenet.com>
Subject: [2209] Ham/Astronomy Activity Night?
Message-ID: <199610180310.UAA07685@primenet.com>

Howdy All,

Paul (NA5N) wrote:

>

> ObQRP: For the FYBO and QRP Afield contests, can we get bonus
> points for sighting comets and Messier objects?

:-) (For you non-astronomy types, the Messier objects were catalogued a few centuries ago to assist in the hunt for comets, and include such nifty naked-eye fuzzy patches as the Orion and Crab nebulae, the Andromeda galaxy, etc)

Actually after you mentioned how many hams were interested in

astronomy and vice-versa (thought I was one of a very few!), I started toying with a similar idea. Not a contest so much as a "Ham/Astronomy Activity Night". Wonder if there'd be enough interest to make it feasible?

I've got a lovely Dobsonian light bucket with a 13.1" mirror - definitely not QRP by amateur astronomy standards. :-) But it'd go along great with my QRP+, a few tables, a dozen or so people, munchies, clear skies, etc. Especially with Hale-Bopp scheduled to brush by in March.

How insane an idea is this? Comments? With some long-term coordination between astronomy and ham clubs, this could be a lot of fun. Keeping it QRP would be ideal, since non-Ham astronomers could see rigs that can be built and operated by mere mortals. Plus nobody wants a noisy generator at a dark-sky observing site.

Amateur astronomers are prime candidates for becoming QRPers. Technical, curious, not afraid of a challenge, and used to doing "more with less".

Yet another plot to swell the ranks of QRPers worldwide. Not to mention adding a few new amateur astronomers from the Ham ranks as well... ;-)

Please let me know if this is of even *slight* interest to anyone. It may take awhile to get things rolling, but it *can* be done....

Cheers de KC7NEV,

-Joe, vole@primenet.com, AZ ScQRPions

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: lbbarley@feist.com (Bruce Barley)
Subject: [2161] HB: small const. chassis, etc.
Message-ID: <199610171752.MAA08009@wichita.fn.net>

While perusing the local "Hobby Lobby" store (national chain), I found that they carry a line of small SOLID BRASS boxes w/ flanged lids. I was actually looking for a small tin box, but something larger than the Altoids boxes. What I found was imported from India, solid brass sheet impressively thick, and with a flanged lid which can either be fastened with small screws, or riveted or soldered as your requirements dictate.

The box sold for \$3.79 and is 3.5 x 3.5 x 1.5 inches in measure. By putting some masking tape on the outside and marking it for the connector and switch locations, I succeeded in drilling it without scratching up the shiny brass finish. Added bonus: FB ground connections soldered inside. It deburrs readily using an old hobby knife blade, and for larger openings a small moto-tool allows you to rough and finish to the size you need without having the bit gum up like it will with some grades of aluminum.

If you don't have an import store or a hobby store close by which carries these boxes (there are several different sizes and shapes) the box which I have says the distributor is World Bazaars, Inc from Commerce, California 90040. USUAL DISCLAIMERS APPLY.

The shine of this little box (houses one of my qrp xmtrs) sure sets off my operating station. Much easier on the eye than those dull little aluminum boxes. Plus, the brass boxes are really great to drill and cut. And I really like the ability to solder my ground connections inside the box. My ugly construction rig + a 9 V battery all fit inside without crowding.

HB forever!

Bruce Barley KB0PZD
lbbarley@feist.com qrp-l # 69

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Bill Myers <bmyers@destin.nfds.net>
Subject: [2139] ICOM QRP Adjustments
Message-ID: <1.5.4.16.19961017111604.0e1711ce@destin.nfds.net>

At 11:01 AM 10/17/96 -0400, Byron8LCZ@aol.com wrote:

>I believe "most" Yaesu's and Icom's wont go below 10w output.

This is how they are set from the factory, but they are adjustable.

The Icom 735, through an internal adjustment, can be brought down to around 1 watt. Once this is set, the adjustment can be made from the rf power control on the front panel from minimum to maximum.

Right now, I'm using the 735 for my qrp rig, at least until I get my HW-7 back up on the air and order my 40-9er. Or maybe I'll just wait for the SST...

72/73

--

Bill Myers KK4KF FISTS #2390 QRP-L #755 ARRL
Snail Mail P. O. Box 178
 Shalimar, FL 32579-0178
Grid EM60
e-mail <bmyers@destin.nfds.net>
homepage <http://destin.nfds.net/~bmyers/>

CHECK OUT THE FISTS INTERNATIONAL CW CLUB HOMEPAGE
<http://n9nvv.qrp.com/~fists>
^^^^^ That's N 9 N V V

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: rflight@VNET.IBM.COM
Subject: [2163] It's nice to know some of us are normal!
Message-ID: <199610171817.0AA48300@nss2.CC.Lehigh.EDU>

Hi gang;

I have been informed (actually quite long ago) that most amateur radio operators are strange, wierd, and bizzare human beings, sometimes mistaken for nerds (or geeks to be more politically correct). They are easily located or otherwise identified by their tendency to migrate toward each other (often from great distances), until they find themselves clustered in droves at strange nomadic marketplaces called "hamfests". There is little sign of livestock, salt curred or otherwise at these markets, and few if any seem to be engaged in shopping for groceries which are in obvious short supply. The marketplaces themselves are peculiar, but apparently meet the needs of their clientel as evidenced by the flurry of activity with products lacking any features of description being offered for sale and actually purchased.

There is a code among this social class which most outsiders call Morse, and thought to relate to the means with which they conduct social intercourse. It appears they observe other codes as well; most notably the dress code they observe when shopping at these markets. I suspect there are many "closet" types that frequent these markets, because this dress code is rarely spotted in places where the rest of society shops.

They seem friendly enough, but often talk funny. This is probably why they are sometimes mistaken for a geek. They even utilize an inverted monetary system, or the goods found at these marketplaces age in much the same manner as a fine wine. An apparatus which has been used for a year or so often enjoys a considerable increase in value. Age doesn't seem to set the actual value much, and the amount of the increase appears to relate more to who was the previous owner. I have considered selling some of my older equipment to a few of these folks for a year or so, and then buying it back at

a 20 or 30 percent markup. This would help my XYL better understand the true value of my hobby.

I don't seem to add much value to most of what I own though, and I attribute that to the fact that I don't use it as often as I should. Here again; my XYL needs to learn how ownership alone isn't sufficient criteria for maintaining the value of my investments. More time needs to be allocated for operating, or I may find myself operating in the red.

Although most hams don't appear in public properly attired, they are often spotted in their vehicles. They must think the windows on their cars are made of one way glass, and people can't see inside to identify them. They install poles and sticks of varied and random dimensions in no particularly meaningful way other than that most appear to point straight up. Some look like they are holding up small boxes or cylindrical containers, but even the containers have little poles on top of them. In some cases; these sticks are so large that they install them on their bumpers, and tie ropes and strings to keep them pointing up in the air. The way you know for sure it's an amateur radio operator is to observe them when they are driving. Most drive with one hand over their mouth. It looks odd, but it doesn't seem to affect their driving very much.

There seems to be some cosmic influence that comes over these folks on an annual basis at exactly the same time, and consumes the better part of an otherwise peaceful summer weekend. It appears that this experience is quite hard on them, because it apparently keeps them up all night. It turns out that they are very supportive of each other during this time though, as they find others who share in their suffering to join them in an obscure locality often in the country and away from civilization to deal with their pain. It is good that they have each other for support during this time. It must be very difficult for them.

A peculiar element of this happening, is that a sizable number of them seem to have a sense that it is about to happen, and go off in search of a location the day before the event. Not two days, not a week, never late, but exactly one day before. This truly must be hard for them, and even more so for those who see it coming. Once they find a location, they simultaneously and collectively engage in a heated frenzy and totally trash the place. They throw ropes and twine over trees, string wires between buildings, trees, and makeshift poles. They run wires in every direction you can imagine, batteries generators, tables, tents, and about anything that isn't in motion. They have a keen sense of control over this frenzy however. Nobody seems to get hurt, and they all calm down and go away when they are done. The next morning, all the radio amateurs make their pilgrimage to the site to begin their annual weekend vigil.

When asked by a casual passer by to one of these locations what was going on, one of them managed a smile, and politely said "We're having a

field day". The observer continued on his way shaking his head, and mumbling to himself "Field day huh? ... I'll say they're having a field day!"

Well you can imagine the horror that came over me when given this very startling piece of information. I was completely beside myself. Being the survivor that I am though; I didn't let it get the best of me. It's a lesson I'm sure I'll not soon forget too, and every now and then I reflect on it to make sure that I'm keeping the activities associated with my hobby in check.

And you can be sure that I don't mind sharing with you that:

It's certainly refreshing to realize that us QRP'ers are normal...

72 and 73

de N3GO, Gary Raleigh, NC

***** How Low Will I Go? *****

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Peter Beedlow <nn9k@worldnet.att.net>
Subject: [2107] Kenwood TS-850S QRP adjustments
Message-ID: <2.2.16.19961017065706.376f1bac@postoffice.worldnet.att.net>

Sometime in the past few months there was a posting indicating internal adjustments to the Kenwood TS-850S for QRP power ranges. Of course I didn't print it and of course my laptop hard drive crashed. Have restored a lot of the program data but lost all of my saved mail messages. Could someone please send it to me at nn9k@worldnet.att.net?

Thanks in advance,

Pete, NN9K
EN41TL
QRP-L #5
Peter Beedlow, NN9K
EN41TL (IL)
nn9k@worldnet.att.net

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: "Sullivan, William D" <WDSULLI@MKG.COM>
Subject: [2141] Kenwood TS130V

Message-ID: <c=US%a=_%p=MKG%l=MMI/EXCH1A/000C522C@hazelw1-elm1.mkg.com>

Does anyone have experience with using a Kenwood TS-130V (QRP version) on the air?

Dan WD8IDZ/0

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: GREGOIRE@endor.com (ERNEST GREGOIRE)
Subject: [2193] MAGNIFIER LIGHTS
Message-ID: <199610172310.TAA175241@nss2.CC.Lehigh.EDU>

Hello Gang,

I am passing this along, I thought there might be some interest

>Hello Jeff,
>
>If you don't have your heart set on the magnifier light, I will
>suggest another option.
>
>I have one of those babies. It dose indeed work, but there are limitations.
>I now perfer a head mounted set of magnifiers like the jewlers use.
>And a bright goose neck/adjustable lamp that can shine the light anywhere
>you want it.
>
>The magnifier light is bulky, it gets in the way a lot. I am also a fly tier.
>Looking through the mag,light is a pain in the neck, literally.
>
>With the head mount, you can look anywhere and have your head in any
>position. The bright light is th key. Use a 100 watt light and place it
>near the work. Use the head magnifiers to bring it in.
>
>I got mine at a ham fest for about \$35 or 40, I don't remember exactly.
>They are also made in various strengths. Magnification factors, like x2 or
>x4 etc.
>
>Good Luck
>
>73 de AA1IK
>

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: "Claton Cadmus" <aplitech@Spacestar.Net>
Subject: [2123] Minnesota QRPers
Message-ID: <199610171431.JAA12241@Spacestar.Net>

ATTENTION (Please tell all your Ham friends!)

I wish to invite all who are interested in QRP and or the HomeBuilding of Ham equipment (HomeBrew) to join us in the formation of a new Minnesota State-Wide Ham Club.

The first meeting of the Minnesota QRP and Home Building Society will be held;

Date: Saturday, November 2nd 1996
Time: 1:00pm to 3:30pm
Place: Edina Community Library
4701 West 50th Street Edina, MN

This is just east of Hwy. 100 on 50th Street next to the police station.

The agenda will be to setup the organization of the club, meeting schedule, decide on the name of the club and hopefully establish a newsletter, perhaps via email.

There will also be show and tell so bring your creations to share with the others.

So join us for QRP/HomeBuilding talk and refreshments.

Claton Cadmus |73 de KA0GKC
Application Technologies Inc. |ARRL, QRP-ARCI, NorCal
Ph. (612)926-8886 |ARCC, MNQRP&HB Society
Fax (612)926-8545 |ka0gkc@ka0gkc.ampr.org
E-mail cla@spacestar.net |ka0gkc@wb0gdb.#stp.mn.us

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: kd1jv@juno.com (STEVEN WEBER)
Subject: [2188] new cmos cpu keyer
Message-ID: <19960914.003331.5471.2.KD1JV@juno.com>

Jessem Crow....I guess the world does need another keyer, judging from the response all ready :-)

Okay, got two possibilities here.

I can make a basic iamic keyer, would be the 20 pin dip CPU, a xtal and driver transistor, maybe 1.5" x 1.5" board. Can set it up so goes into sleep mode after a few minutes then wakes up when you start to key. In sleep mode will draw about 100 ua, couple of mills when active. This version is so simple, can be wired on proto board in no time.

Second version would be the full feature one with eeprom and LCD. This one fits on a 4" x 2.5" board, about 3/4" high. Uses standerd 16 x1 LCD, new these cost about 16 bucks, surplus about 10. This one should be made on pc board, but would not be critical. In any event, these thing do make some RFI, so a little shielded box and rfi filters on the keyer and power lines are highly recomended, especialy when building into a rig.

Since I got to program the CPU chip, you will have to buy them through me, I'll keep the cost real low, under 10 bucks (\$9.95?) for the cpu. PC board and LCD would be extras, may or not want to supply these.

Got a lot of irons in the fire right now, so be a few weeks before I can offer anything. (Yea, need a bigger fire :-)

Guess this might be the next article for *72* I do.

Never enough keyers out there. Send me your ideas for what you want in a keyer and will see what can be done. Maybe we can design one that fits all. Pin selectable options are not out of the question. Am limited to 2 K of program space, that would be the only limiting factor.

de KD1JV, Steve

"keep them irons hot..."

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: wager@juno.com (James W. Cates)
Subject: [2129] NorCal Messages to me
Message-ID: <19961017.074559.4094.5.wager@juno.com>

I have been out of town for a week, and tomorrow off to PacifiCon for three days; so am behind in my responsibilities. And, number two son will be here Tuesday (from Scotland), but I will work off the backlog in bits and pieces. Thanks to everyone for his/her patience. jim

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Craig LaBarge <74740.3166@compuserve.com>

Subject: [2185] Op-amp Oscillator Article
Message-ID: <961017215438_74740.3166_EHB149-1@CompuServe.COM>

Hi!

I just got the October 10th edition of EDN magazine at work today. In the "Design Ideas" section on page 109, there's a short article by Charles Kitchin of Analog Devices about using the AD811AN video op amp as an oscillator. According to the article, the AD811AN is a low-cost, 140MHz video op amp which directly drives 50 ohm coax cables. He shows a schematic for a simple one-chip, crystal-controlled, 1-watt oscillator using the op amp. Kinda sounds like the basis of a QRP transmitter to me!

You experimenters out there might want to check it out. For those who can't get their hands on EDN, send a SASE to my callbook address and I'll get a copy to you.

73, Craig WB3GCK

P.S. If I'm not mistaken, Charles Kitchin is the guy who published a design in EDN a while back for a simple regen receiver. It was the topic of some discussion on the list some time ago. I'm betting he's a ham!

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)
Subject: [2164] Pacificon Surprise * Attention
Message-ID: <199610171827.SAA02031@chuck.dallas.sgi.com>

Gang,

I think I'm the first goose outta the box on Saturday morning at Pacificon.

I have a surprise that only two people in the entire world know about. Well maybe three if I count someone else, but they didn't know what it was. The important thing here is to spread the word in CA that all QRPers must (and I stress this word) show up at the first of the big-to-do or they will miss it. I can't give it away and I will if I go on.

So, suffice it to say if you are going to be at Pacificon

you will forever kick your self from behind for not being there.

No one at PacifiCon knows about this. Noone. So you can start rumors. You can guess. You can start up a pool like in football and/or baseball, but you'll never guess.

Jerry Parker - be there with a camera. Get a front row seat. The rest of the QRP-L group will want film at 11.

I love it when a plan comes together.

dit dit

: Chuck Adams (K5FO CP-60) WAS 40m/30m/20m=49/49/50
: EMPS QS0s=2 STATES(w/c)=2/0 DX=0
: MO TN

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Paul Harden <pharden@aoc.nrao.edu>
Subject: [2179] PacifiCon: last call
Message-ID: <199610172102.PAA02434@zia.aoc.nrao.edu>

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Paul Harden <pharden@aoc.nrao.edu>
Subject: [2186] PacifiCon: Last Call (again)
Message-ID: <199610172157.PAA04848@zia.aoc.nrao.edu>

Leaving tonite to catch my flight to PacifiCon tomorrow. Worked on the handouts last night for my QRP talk. I will be going through the schematic diagrams and how the circuits work based on the Wilderness Radio NC40a, the EmTech NW40, the MFJ-9040, and wrap up with a quick disertation on LM380/LM386 audio amps (equivalent schematic and how to make them work without motorboating). The schematics of these 3 rigs and the LM386 are on the handouts. (Free, of course, to anyone who shows up, while supplies last, etc.).

Never been to PacifiCon before, so really look forward to meeting everyone who will be there. When I step off the plane and it doesn't feel like you've just walked into a sauna, it will be better than Dayton already -hi. So if you want to see some neat QRP gear, kits and HB, come to PacifiCon. And if you're coming

to PacifiCon, please bring something you've recently built. We want to see it. If you've always wondered what some of these kits look like, assembled and unassembled, this is the place. Wonder how many St. Louis Verticals we can set up in the lobby?

Also heard the big secret from K5F0 is he is treating everyone who attends PacifiCon to steak, lobster and lowenbrau at the Concord Hilton. Thanks, Chuck!

And keep a listen for us ... we MIGHT find time to get a station on the air.

CU soon, Paul NA5N

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: mvjfm@mvubr.mv.lucent.com (James M Fitton +1 508 960 2577)
Subject: [2157] QRP JOTA
Message-ID: <199610171734.NAA29352@alig1.firewall.lucent.com>

Boy Scout Jamboree On The Air

Look for W1FW on (mostly) SSB from Windham NH

.
72/73 Jim Fitton, W1FMR NE-QRP <>< NH

E-MAIL changed to jfitton@mv.lucent.com

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: mbarnes@islandnet.com (Mary Barnes)
Subject: [2140] RF losses in plastics
Message-ID: <v01540b00ae8ba71d159f@[198.53.172.92]>

On Wed, 16 Oct 1996, L. B. Cebik wrote:

>And be sure that the plastic will not sublime toxic gasses. Clean the
>microwave thoroughly before using it for food.

For many years phthalates, now known to be carcinogens, have been used in many plastics as plasticizers to initiate the cross linkages than convert a gas or liquid to a plastic solid. These gradually "leak" from the plastics

and have become ubiquitous in the environment. They have been found in soils and in marine and lake sediments everywhere in the world, including the Arctic. In a former life I was involved with the analysis of marine and lake sediments for organic compounds. We used octyl phthalate as a kind of "internal standard" because of its ubiquity.

Personally, I don't intend to do any experiments with the kitchen microwave.

73

Bill VE7MEW

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: "John Mouw" <mouw@innet.com>
Subject: [2197] S-METER Calibration
Message-ID: <199610172345.TAA21051@lucky.innet.com>

Hi Everyone..

Here's the deal. The Collins Standard adopted by Heath, Ten-Tec and some others, utilized a signal of 50 uv across 50 ohms, with 30% am modulation. Be sure that the generator is normalized for 50 ohms. You might want to use a frequency in the 20 meter band as the calibration point. That way you can compensate for soft front ends on the higher bands at some risk of reading a little high on 80 and 40 meters.

Another useful technique is to place a piece of tape over the meter and use the RST system for judging signal strength. HI HI. (telegraphic laugh)

=====
John-KD4GIK Dade City, Florida
Home of Sun, Fun, & Guns!
=====

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: "David D. Meacham" <ddm@datatamers.com>
Subject: [2171] SLV confusion
Message-ID: <Pine.LNX.3.91.961017115256.18424A-100000@dt1.datatamers.com>

Gang,

To me it is obvious that the SLV is a BASE FED, BASE-LOADED VERTICAL, WITH LINEAR-LOADED RADIALS.

The MECHANICAL (lineal) length is 66 feet, NOT the ELECTRICAL length.

Since 50 feet or so of conductor is wound into a BASE-LOADING COIL, one cannot count that as lineal length. By the same token, the radials are folded back on themselves and cannot be considered as lineal lengths. This folding back acts as "linear loading" ala KLM KT-34, etc.

My purpose is NOT to disparage the SLV, but only to clarify some of the terms being used.

I plan to affix a lightweight "capacitive hat" to the top of my pole. Immediately under that will be an AIR-DUX loading coil slipped over the pole, followed by the down-lead wire, all this resonated on 40 or 30m as a vertical quarter-wave against radials. The idea is to get the loading up high so the 15 feet of wire carries lots of current, increasing the efficiency.

72, Dave, W6EMD

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: "David D. Meacham" <ddm@datatamers.com>
Subject: [2172] SLV confusion (corrected text)
Message-ID: <Pine.LNX.3.91.961017122736.18748A-100000@dt1.datatamers.com>

----- Forwarded message -----
From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Paul Harden <pharden@aoc.nrao.edu>
Subject: [2178] Some astronomy websites
Message-ID: <199610172102.PAA02419@zia.aoc.nrao.edu>

I have received numerous emails about some web sites with some nifty astronomy and Hale-Bopp stuff. We maintain a web site, both here at the NRAO observatory, and another at our amateur observatory (Etscorn Observatory) on the New Mexico Tech (NMT) campus.

Our website for amateur astronomy is:
www.nmt.edu/~astro/

This has links to all sorts of stuff, including the Hale-Bopp homepage, NASA/JPL images, etc. Click on the button "astronomy resources" to get right into this area.

The website here at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) is: www.nrao.edu

This website has areas for general interest up to information for visiting scientists, recent observing results, VLA configuration, etc.

Frankly, I haven't seen either of these sites for several months, but keep hearing about all the neat stuff and links they've added. So hopefully it will be worth your time to browse if you have an interest in amateur astronomy or comet watching. I'd be interested to find out if you found either website useful or recommendations for things you'd like to see.

72, Paul NA5N

ObQRP: For the FYBO and QRP Afield contests, can we get bonus points for sighting comets and Messier objects?

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Dquagliana@aol.com
Subject: [2192] SW-40 finally up and running
Message-ID: <961017185203_129036846@emout14.mail.aol.com>

Roy Boggs <rboggs@pcc-uky.campus.mci.net> writes on QRP-L:

>Mr. Genius here sat reading the QRPP 2-3 times today and read Doug
>Quagliana's article on satellite work each time; I then got on 40m for a
>little of our favorite stuff and heard KA2UPW calling. This was Doug's FIRST
>QRP to QRP contact (on his beloved SW40 (my dearest radio too!)),

Yes. First 40m QRP to QRP contact on the SW40!!!! Roy has a great signal into NJ. Did I mention this was only my

>Did I mention that he was mobile??!!

Yes. Mobile. Well, parked in the parking lot anyway. Just a Hustler 40m with a magmount on the roof and the SW40. Not even tuned up yet. And my work is actually a great place for 40m. Did I mention the airport near here that has a great flat horizon in almost every direction?

(Also great for satellite work!) Or that the road at work actually divides two different counties? (Great for county hunting.)

If anyone wants to try a schedule, I'm available during the week at lunchtime (except during some AO-27 satellite passes :-)) or on the way home.

Now I just need a QRP/Mobile to QRP/Mobile contact. (Already did QRP/Satellite to QRP/Satellite and Satellite/Mobile to Satellite/Mobile !)

Doug KA2UPW
dquagliana@aol.com
QRP/Satellite/Mobile <-- all at the same time!!

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: PDouglas12@aol.com
Subject: [2170] SWL 80m SSB rig
Message-ID: <961017152317_545317669@emout14.mail.aol.com>

Gang,

My son at home advises the mailman brought me a fat envelope from Small Wonders Labs. That will be my SSB kit for 80m I ordered based on seeing the prototype back in Dayton. Here I am stuck in the office. Now, how am I going to do any work this afternoon? Huh? You tell me. I haven't made an SSB contact in two years, except for the Slow Scan Net once in a while. The idea this time is to be able to check into some SSB QRP nets that meet on 80m. I expect to post a note or two about the kit and how it goes together, though not a blow-by-blow this time. Chuck, I never promised I would only operate CW forever! Just until my code speed came up so I could get my Extra--and that was ten years ago! I will post my opening impressions as soon as I can.

PS--I have been at the rig for most of the foxes. None worked though a few heard down near the noise in the ether.

72,

Preston WJ2V

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Peter Simpson/US/3Com <Peter_Simpson@3mail.3Com.COM>
Subject: [2103] Tally-Ho!
Message-ID: <9610171113.AA8016@hqsmtp2.ops.3com.com>

Well, I finally worked a fox! I wasn't sure I would get a chance, because I was out with my wife and kids, but I got home about forty-five minutes into the time slot and figured it was worth a listen.

Tom, N9DD, was the fox, and he was in Indiana, and I do hear quite a few 9 calls, so I thought my chances were pretty good, especially as the band was in very good shape the previous night. The static crashes and QRN that greeted me when I turned on the

NC40 were a bit discouraging, but hey, every fox hunt can't have nice weather, can it? So, there I sat, down in the basement, tuning around, looking for the pack. Heard a guy calling CQ/QRP, but I was after bigger game.

CQ FOX CQ FOX DE N9DD. Huh? Really? Wow, he sounds great! Wait a minute...where'd he go? Apparently, the ionosphere was a tad unstable last night. One minute he'd be real loud, the next, I would lose him in the noise. As the evening wore on, the noise started to die down a bit. Then, around 10:30, Tom called, *and no one came back to him!* So I hit the button on my trusty Heath keyer, and sent my call.

Tom came back to me! Yippee!...Ahhh...let's see, good thing I wrote out all the stuff I'm supposed to send him. I send R R 559 MA PETER 260 BK, just like I'd been taught. Huh? he's asking for something...ST ST ? He must want the state again. And the name...and the QRP number. Well, that's a fox with a real desire to help his pursuers! I finally managed to get all the details to Tom, and he's buried in a chorus of barks, yips and yelps, as the other hounds catch his scent.

One of the yelps was mine, as I tore off the phones, shut down the trusty NC40 and dash upstairs to tell my (almost asleep) wife that I finally heard *and* worked a fox! For some reason her reply was less enthusiastic than I expected, but she did congratulate me before she went back to sleep.

Wow! What a hoot! Thanks to Tom, and Chuck, and all the other patient and persistent foxes who are so tolerant of bad conditions, shaky fists and nervous operators like the undersigned happy hunter,

Peter, KA1AXY

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Mark.Milburn@cybrtech.com
Subject: [2131] Ten Tec Reflector
Message-ID: <199610171537.LAA85335@nss2.CC.Lehigh.EDU>

Shut out again on the foxes! Last night I not only couldn't hear the foxes, I couldn't hear anybody W

ORKING the foxes. Bad propagation night here, that's for sure. However, enthusiasm is not dampened. Back

into

the fray.

Some time ago, somebody sent me the address to subscribe to a Ten Tec
re

flector. I did it (hopefully according to instructions) and for some
reason it didn't "take". Will you post that subscribing information
again, please?

Thanks to all who participate in the fox hunts. One of the best things
going...

7oing.

2/73 Mark

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: N2QCE@aol.com
Subject: [2114] Test message - Do not read
Message-ID: <961017090628_1313448773@emout13.mail.aol.com>

Test - is this thing on???

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: "marcus (m.c.) leatham" <leatham@nortel.ca>
Subject: [2201] When FOX? Where FOX?
Message-ID: <"19843 Thu Oct 17 16:22:00 1996"@bnr.ca>

Could someone post a list of fox scheds?

Are they always on the same nights of the week?
Same band? Same time? Is it a spur-of-the-moment
thing?

Thanks,
Marcus (KR5N) Leatham
^
|
+-- My secret identity,

just like Clark (Superman) Kent!

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: "Bruce Pea" <pea@soltec.com>
Subject: [2189] Which logging program??
Message-ID: <199610172227.RAA23274@isis.soltec.net>

I'm starting to accumulate qsl cards and figure its time to start putting them into a logging program (been keeping my log on yellow legal pads up to now!). I've looked at a few shareware sites and was amazed to find so many programs available.

Can someone give me a pointer to a couple of the better ones to check out? What's everyone using these days, DOS, Windows?? A decent windows program would be nice to go along with the propagation program and some other things. I did look at one windows log program and took it off my system, it was hopelessly cluttered and very user unfriendly.

Thanks for the pointers.

72/73

Bruce, N9WKE

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: James Bennett <james@research.nj.nec.com>
Subject: [2159] Yaesu FT301 Mods?
Message-ID: <Pine.sol.3.91.961017132434.22256A@shakti>

Group,
Some time back someone metioned a mod for the Yaesu FT301 to improve receive sensitivity. As I remember, it involved a couple of component changes and some adjustment. I am planning a complete re-alignment so I might as well make any changes beforehand.
If anyone has this information it would be greatly appreciated. I hope to have my FT301S in top shape in time for for my first turn as fox on Nov 5.
Thanks and 73,

James Bennett
KA5DVS/2 ("I don't think we're in Arkansas anymore")
QRPL# 63
Foxhunt: 0

EMPS: QS0s=1 STATES= 1 DX=0

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Kirkekirk@aol.com
Subject: [2198] Re: "QST", Nov., '96 issue, "Field Day" results, page 96
Message-ID: <961017195348_1179389130@emout11.mail.aol.com>

In a message dated 96-10-17 18:30:11 EDT, wa5whn@juno.com (Jay D Miller) writes:

<< Alot of familier calls in the 1B-1 Op Battery category >>
Check out the 2B 10P category. I got first place....not much competition.

AA4YZ
Kirk

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: wb2vuo@juno.com (William K Hibbert)
Subject: [2098] RE: "S"-Meter
Message-ID: <19961016.231801.4727.1.wb2vuo@juno.com>

I have neverfigured where the "S" came from, as I was taught by my 'Elmer' W20QY (who was really Les...) that it is a "Guess"-Meter. They must take the initial off the back.

Hm-m-m-m-m... Maybe that's where the term "Bass-Ackwards" came from, too...

72/73, Keith, WB2VUO, QRP-L #582
Trustee, KB2YTW/B 10 Mtr Milliwatting Beacon (250 mW @ 28.2870 MHz)
"In the Depths of the Great Bergen Swamp...FN13ac"

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: "L. B. Cebik" <cebik@utkux.utcc.utk.edu>
Subject: [2104] RE: "S"-Meter
Message-ID: <Pine.SOL.3.94.961017064408.21464D-100000@utkux4.utcc.utk.edu>

The October, 1995, issue of QQ has an article ("The RST Standard of Reporting") that explains the history of RST (it dates back to 1934) and

the changes in meaning in the system (R and S are the same as in the 30s, T has changed. The S9=50 microvolts and each S-unit = 6 dB came from a proposal in the 1940s, which manufacturers refused to adopt since the nature of receivers would preclude the required precision--at least at any price anyone could pay.

I have heard folks say S0, as well as S9+40--both are equally meaningless in the RST system. S1 is the limit of perceptibility, so S0 means "I do not hear you, but I am transmitting anyway for no good reason." S9+40 means "Extremely strong signals made uselessly even stronger by your refusal to act on the FCC requirement to reduce power to simply that necessary for communication."

As the article notes, the RST system of reporting is not to be dismissed as merely subjective. The word "subjective" is what we call anything we do not like in contexts where we cannot use swear words--it is an illicit attempt to void the difference between the unskilled, uneducated, untrained, and inexperienced guesses of outsiders and the skilled, educated, trained, and experienced judgments that radio operators commit themselves to making as correctly as possible by their dedication to radio communication. (As a teacher, I put up with the same brainless attempt to dismiss the grading of essay exams by calling such grades "subjective," rather than professional judgments for which I have been trained and continue to train myself.) Uniformity of reporting cannot be perfect, but it can be reliable.

Lest we get carried away, perhaps a look at the October, 1995, QQ is in order. It is an historic issue--Ron Stark's first as Managing Editor, and a darn fine first issue for any editor--even if you drop the RST article from it.

-73-

LB, W4RNL

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: "L. B. Cebik" <cebik@utkux.utcc.utk.edu>
Subject: [2110] RE: "S"-Meter
Message-ID: <Pine.SOL.3.94.961017081634.29689A-100000@utkux4.utcc.utk.edu>

Those who do not have the October, 1995, issue of QQ but who may be interested in a brief history of RST (and its relationship to S-meters) can find the article at my Website

<http://funnelweb.utcc.utk.edu/~cebik/rst.html>

I have also placed a couple of other articles there, along with the latest lists of periodicals for QRPers, electronics books, and antenna books. The master amateur radio page is

<http://funnelweb.utcc.utk.edu/~cebik/radio.html>

-73-

LB, W4RNL

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996

From: launerb@crl.com (William H. Launer)

Subject: [2146] RE: "S"-Meter

Message-ID: <v01530500ae8c02aae527@[192.0.2.1]>

>From an engineering viewpoint, I would like to see a set of standards for "S" meter calibration. However, from a qrp'rs viewpoint, "S" meters are usually worthless. The signals we are trying to copy are seldom strong enough to budge a meter (unless we are next door, and copying a "line-of-sight" signal). An "S" meter merely reads a summation of signals passed through the receiver string prior to the measuring point. This value includes adjacent signals, and atmospheric noise coming in the receiver front end. It does not measure an "absolute value" of the signal you are copying. The human ear/brain combination is filtering the received signal - this ability comes with practice. What one person perceives as an "S5" signal may be inaudible (S0) to another.

The "copyability" of any signal is dependent upon a myriad of factors - not the least of which are the antenna/receiver combination at the receiving site. We aren't in a laboratory situation where we can shield the receiver from everything except the desired input signal. Our situation is one of compromise, we have to trade off our receiver selectivity (sensitivity is usually not a problem at hf) vs. the stability of the incoming signal's frequency.

"S" meter indications are typically derived from an "agc like" circuit, so where there is no constant carrier (cw or ssb), the readings will not be a true indication of peak instantaneous signal strength. The sending operator would need to hold the key down for a period of time for you to get a "true" (?) reading.

I use two receivers, a Yaesu FT-301 and a Hammarlund SP-600. Both are good receivers. I've tested them sitting side by side on the same signal (both using 500 Hz if filtering, and alternating the same antenna between the two). The SP-600 is the best cw receiver. The SP-600 has much better

"front end selectivity", so much less noise gets in to the mixer/if string. The FT-301 has less "front end selectivity", so weak signals are often swamped by the atmospheric noise typical on 80 and 40 meters. Since the SP-600 uses a diode detector instead of a product detector, the agc is normally off for cw operation, and the "S" meter is inoperative. As a result, I have to give "qualitative" "S" readings instead of "absolute" meter readings

I'll get off my soapbox now, and go lie in wait for the next fox.

72/73 Bill wb0cld

Bill Launer
St. Charles, MO
launerb@crl.com
wb0cld@wb0cld.ampr.org [44.46.66.25]
qrp-1 #279 qrp arci #3551
Grid Square EM48RT

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Jeff Grudin <grudin@pacific.vdbs.com>
Subject: [2194] Re: "S"-Meter
Message-ID: <3266A6F8.1813@pacific.vdbs.com>

William H. Launer wrote:

The signals we are trying to copy are seldom strong
> enough to budge a meter (unless we are next door, and copying a
> "line-of-sight" signal).

While this is often true, It is not always. I have frequently received reports of 559 or better.

A few weeks ago, My club ran a special event station from Chew's Ridge California. I worked several QRP operators. The signals were very loud and moved my S meter even from the east coast.

I took it as a chance to show my friends that QRP works, turned up the volume and proclaimed "QRP from New York". Got lots of wide eyed looks.

--

73 de Jeff AC6KW

grudin@vdbs.com

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: "Bob Tellefsen-CNSE97" <Bob_Tellefsen-CNSE97@email.mot.com>
Subject: [2181] Re:10 turn for Norcal 40A
Message-ID: <M1105273.004.fw6o3.1.961017214000Z.CC-MAIL*/OU=LMPCC10/OU=ILBE/
PRMD=MOT/ADMD=MOT/C=US/@MHS>

Mike NQ7K de N6WG

My friend Dwight, WA6NAE, has a Norcal 40a that has been converted to a 10-turn pot I gave him. Don't remember the model, but was about 1 inch diameter and about 1.5 inch long in the body. Standard three terminals and .25 inch shaft.

I wanted to call your attention to the new QRP POWER book from ARRL. One of the articles in it talks about linearizing a 10-turn pot controlling a varactor-tuned vfo.

The general idea was to take a fixed resistor of the same value as the pot, and connect it between the hot end of the pot and the wiper connection. This apparently puts a reverse curve on the change in voltage per turn to counter the voltage versus frequency curve of the vfo.

We are going to try it when we get time. Thought I would pass it on as it seems to fit with what you are interested in doing.
72, Bob N6WG

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Byron8LCZ@aol.com
Subject: [2125] Re: 80 mtr ARCI Fall QSO party.
Message-ID: <961017110058_1212802963@emout07.mail.aol.com>

In a message dated 96-10-17 00:03:41 EDT, you write:

<< The plan is to go to 3.560mhz at the top of every hour starting at 01:00z til 10:00z. WAS/QRP/80 in one night??? Maybe..
72,
Bill, K5ZTY and the Texas Yahoos' >>

Hi Bill,

80m has been in good shape from 2300Z TO 0400Z in the Detroit area. I'll be checking out all the bands 80 thru 10 at the top of every hour. Who knows, 15m may open up a little.

In the last few weeks, on 80m, I've worked: Tn Ma Ia Mn Ks Pa Md Ky Nc Nj

Heard but not worked: Ct Fl Ga Mo Ne Nh Vt Wi
80m will be a good band this time around. If everyone shows up there.
Good Luck in the contest

72, Byron WA8LCZ Detroit

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: kd1jv@juno.com (STEVEN WEBER)
Subject: [2124] Re: 8044 chip
Message-ID: <19960913.201928.5471.0.KD1JV@juno.com>

Mouser carries the 8044 and the newer 8044ABM Either one is \$19.95 Mouser
has no minimum order, and claim to be the only source for the chip.

Mouser, 800-346-6873

de Steve, KD1JV

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: kd1jv@juno.com (STEVEN WEBER)
Subject: [2134] Re: 8044 chip
Message-ID: <19960913.210840.5471.3.KD1JV@juno.com>

Forgot to tell you the part number, 5163-8044 for the basic *A* keyer in
the 16 pin dip package or, 5163-8044ABM for the *A* or *B* keyer in 20
pin dip package. The basic circuit for this chip can be found in many
ARRL Handbooks and QRP project books.

Once again, that's the Mouser part number. Phone 800-346-6873 to order.

de Steve, KD1JV

Normal disclaimer, I just buy parts from them now and again.

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: dgf@netcom.com (David Feldman)
Subject: [2127] Re: 8044 chip (mouser=DISCONTINUED!)
Message-ID: <199610171514.IAA24677@netcom3.netcom.com>

Before people innundate (sp?) mouser with calls for the 8044 or 8044ABM
I just called and they confirmed it is not available and is discontinued.

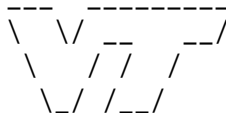
73 Dave WB0GAZ dgf@netcom.com

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: pelt@vt.edu (Randy Pelt)
Subject: [2135] Re: 8044 chip (mouser=DISCONTINUED!)
Message-ID: <v01540b01ae8bcfb72a7f@[198.82.152.40]>

>Before people innundate (sp?) mouser with calls for the 8044 or 8044ABM
>I just called and they confirmed it is not available and is discontinued.
>
>73 Dave WB0GAZ dgf@netcom.com

Try Jade Products at (800) 523-3776.

Ranson J. Pelt
pelt@vt.edu
QST de w4wyt Semper Fi
ex-nz4i



From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Patrick Taber <ptaber@logiccraft.com>
Subject: [2105] Re: 8044ABM Burp Fix THANKS
Message-ID: <1.5.4.32.199610171114627.0095e410@freebird>

>I guess my question still is,
>
>Was the Curtis Mode A a BUG (mistake)?
>

No. Uh-uh. Absolutely not. Mode A is perfect for people who are learning to operate at a slow speed. When you're keying slowly, it makes no sense to have the keyer squirt out an uncalled-for element. When you get faster, so your hand is "leading" the paddle, then Mode B is much nicer because it gives you those few extra milliseconds slack, but Mode A gives a new user more sense of control.

>>>==>PStJTT (KC1TD)

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: wb8ygg@juno.com (Bradley S. Mitchell)
Subject: [2177] Re: 8044ABM Burp Fix THANKS
Message-ID: <19961016.165144.7727.2.WB8YGG@juno.com>

All this sounds logical, if it were not for the fact that
MODE B may have existed before B, and that
many say that after learning mode A, Mode B is almost
impossible to learn.

The time line of events is really what is of interest.

DISCRETE Logic IAMBIC (which includes dit/dah memory)
Curtis Mode A (no dit dah memory)
Curtis Mode B (which includes dit/dah memory)

If you think about it , Mode A was a backwards step.

I would really like to know what dates the chips were introduced.
And who this Curtis company is, so I can do a bit more research.
Guessing at the answers isn't going to work.

Does anybody have details on the people involved in
the design?

73 Brad WB8YGG

On Thu, 17 Oct 1996 07:46:27 -0400 Patrick Taber <ptaber@logiccraft.com> writes:

>>I guess my question still is,

>>

>>Was the Curtis Mode A a BUG (mistake)?

>>

>No. Uh-uh. Absolutely not. Mode A is perfect for people who are

>learning to

>operate at a slow speed. When you're keying slowly, it makes no sense

>to

>have the keyer squirt out an uncalled-for element. When you get

>faster, so

>your hand is "leading" the paddle, then Mode B is much nicer because

>it

>gives you those few extra milliseconds slack, but Mode A gives a new
>user
>more sense of control.
>
>>>>==>PStJTT (KC1TD)
>
>
>

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Hank Kohl <k8dd@tir.com>
Subject: [2199] Re: ARCI Contest Logging SW
Message-ID: <2.2.32.19961017231132.006d67b4@tir.com>

Allen
NA version 9 and 10 will work for QRP-ARCI. Buck, N8CQA, and I worked on
the author, K8CC, for over a year and he finally wrote in the ARCI contests.
It prints out log, dupe sheets, entry or summary sheet, breakdowns by hour,
etc. It is available from LTA, P.O. Box 77, New Bedford, PA 16140
Phone 216 565 9950.

It Dupes as you go, gives you the QSO numbers by band, the score, sends CW
exchanges, interfaces to the radio (assuming you have a radio that can be
computer controlled), has paddle input to the parallel port.....just about
everything you want a fully featured contest program to do. Very similar to
CT, but - it covers QRP-ARCI contests!

It also covers about 14 major contests, including quite a few QSO Parties.
It's \$55 for new subscribers.

At 15:51 10/17/96 -0500, you wrote:

>Does anyone know of a logging program (shareware if available) that will
>handle the QRP ARCI contests? I bought the latest update of Log-EQF which
>can be customized for most contests for the logging and duping but requires
>a manual process to handle score calculation. I also have an older version
>of CT (ver 7.x).

>
>Thanks in advance.

>
>72 de Allen, K9DZE
>ajones@adsnet.com

>
>
>
>

* / Hank Kohl K8DD k8dd@contesting.com <----- new
* / MI-QRP - Vice Pres. QRP-ARCI - Director
* / G-QRP ARRL/LM QCWA/LM QCAO/LM

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Joe Gervais <vole@primenet.com>
Subject: [2094] Re: background noise level
Message-ID: <199610170522.WAA20026@primenet.com>

Jeff (KF4JSV) wrote:

> This is the first time I have ever used/heard an HF
> rig. The background noise was pretty consistent at S4 to S5. Is this normal
> for 40 meters at night? (I expected European BC station interference and
> there was plenty.) Also, signals would come out of the noise for a minute or
> two then go back down into the muck. Again, is this the norm?

40m was brutal tonight at my QTH (Arizona). Lots of static
crashes, steady QRN, heavy QSB, etc. So at least you weren't
suffering alone. :-)

Rest assured it's usually not this bad. At least not when I
operate. Try again over the next few weeks, and you'll probably
find 40m in good shape. Hope to hear you out there!

Cheers de KC7NEV,

-Joe, vole@primenet.com, AZ ScQRPions

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Patrick Taber <ptaber@logicraft.com>
Subject: [2109] Re: background noise level
Message-ID: <1.5.4.32.19961017120516.0094fee4@freebird>

At 10:22 PM 10/16/96 -0700, you wrote:

>
> Jeff (KF4JSV) wrote:
>
>> This is the first time I have ever used/heard an HF
>> rig. The background noise was pretty consistent at S4 to S5. Is this normal

>> for 40 meters at night?

>

>40m was brutal tonight at my QTH (Arizona). Lots of static
>crashes, steady QRN, heavy QSB, etc. So at least you weren't
>suffering alone. :-)

>

OK, I wasn't going to post another "didn't get 'im" message, but now I will....

Last night I was hosting a Cub Scout meeting for the first part of the evening then after everyone went home spent time decompressing my own two kids and didn't get to the radio until late and I was a bit tired. I turned it on and just like last time, noise, nothing but noise. But I started finding signals. I was riding the DSP, had noise reduction kicked in, had the passband cranked much tighter than I usually do and still killer noise on top of signals and the sensitivity seemed, well, off.

Well, I'm tired, the static is wearing me down I figured I'd pull the plug. I have kind of a standard ritual that I go through when I shut down to make sure I get everything switched off and as I get to the DSP box, I notice that the BYPASS button is pushed in. I let it out and the noise disappears and as I tune many, many signals pop up clear and beautiful as the ringing of wee sleigh bells on Christmas Eve.

So I had spent the evening cranking the filter up and down and it had been bypassed the entire time. Sheeeesh. It couldn't have been me it must have been one of the kids that pushed the button -- yeah, that's the ticket....

My old First Sergeant used to say "You have to be smarter than the tool you're trying to use."

>>>==>PStJTT

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996

From: pmk@juno.com

Subject: [2180] Re: Cable splicing tape

Message-ID: <19961017.210348.4831.1.PMK@juno.com>

Hello Rod KA7YOU

Hummm I'll have to look that one up Rod. I have been using the 130c for a long time. Others beware that the Jap rap type linerless or splicing tape will break down the coax outer insulation. It is nasty, gummy and stains anything it touches.

Never had a breakdown with the 130c and also easy to remove.

73 de Patrick KD4OBQ

ar

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Bruce Robertson <brucerob@chass.utoronto.ca>
Subject: [2142] Re: CW question
Message-ID: <Pine.SGI.3.95.961017121336.15144B-100000@chass.utoronto.ca>

On Mon, 14 Oct 1996, Patrick Taber wrote:

> Well, the 'R' (radix) is used in numbers, but in a number the 'R' is
> unambiguous. In an address, it would be very confusing -- did he send
> "car.ot", "ca.rot" or "carrot"? In text, the tradition is send periods.
>
> >>>==>PStJTT

A similar problem can be found in the advice that the @ be transcribed as
'at' .- -. br@gnatfly.com is ambiguous (possibly decoded as
bratgn@fly.com and v.v.) The person who suggested that we need an @ morse
transcription is right, that is if we want to send email stuff over the
air (especially by automatic means).

72, VE3uw1

Bruce G. Robertson Dept. of Classics, U. of T.

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Kevin Bunin <p014455b@pbfreenet.seflin.lib.fl.us>
Subject: [2152] Re: CW question
Message-ID: <Pine.3.89.9610171304.A11046-0100000@pbfreenet.seflin.lib.fl.us>

Not if you send cw properly...and copy cw properly...confusion should not
be an issue....br at etc. but then ._ _ . is not "at" it is "an."

Kevin Bunin
p014455b@pbfreenet.seflin.lib.fl.us

On Thu, 17 Oct 1996, Bruce Robertson wrote:

```
> On Mon, 14 Oct 1996, Patrick Taber wrote:
>
> > Well, the 'R' (radix) is used in numbers, but in a number the 'R' is
> > unambiguous. In an address, it would be very confusing -- did he send
> > "car.ot", "ca.rot" or "carrot"? In text, the tradition is send periods.
> >
> > >>==>PStJTT
>
> A similar problem can be found in the advice that the @ be transcribed as
> 'at' .- -. br@gnatfly.com is ambiguous (possibly decoded as
> bratgn@fly.com and v.v.) The person who suggested that we need an @ morse
> transcription is right, that is if we want to send email stuff over the
> air (especially by automatic means).
>
> 72, VE3uw1
>
> Bruce G. Robertson  Dept. of Classics, U. of T.
>
>
```

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Patrick Taber <ptaber@logiccraft.com>
Subject: [2156] Re: CW question
Message-ID: <1.5.4.32.19961017172540.00b2908c@freebird>

```
At 12:17 PM 10/17/96 -0400, you wrote:
>On Mon, 14 Oct 1996, Patrick Taber wrote:
>
>> Well, the 'R' (radix) is used in numbers, but in a number the 'R' is
>> unambiguous. In an address, it would be very confusing -- did he send
>> "car.ot", "ca.rot" or "carrot"? In text, the tradition is send periods.
>>
>> >>==>PStJTT
>
>A similar problem can be found in the advice that the @ be transcribed as
>'at' .- -. br@gnatfly.com is ambiguous (possibly decoded as
>bratgn@fly.com and v.v.)
```

I don't think it's as confusing as sending 'R' for period. The AT presumably would be word-spaced so it should be transcribed BR AT GNATFLY and cursory acquaintance with internet addressing should make the meaning clear.

```
>
>The person who suggested that we need an @ morse
>transcription is right, that is if we want to send email stuff over the
```

>air (especially by automatic means).

>

Saints preserve us -- why would anyone want to do that? If it's outgoing to the net use a mode better suited to it. If it's incoming from the net you'll need more than one new character to cover the hunderd-odd smiley faces, personal affronts and signature files. One of the true appeals of Morse is it's unfriendliness to excess verbiage -- like poetry, a Morse message is most admired when it carries maximum content in the minimum words.

>>>==>PStJTT

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996

From: Patrick Taber <ptaber@logiccraft.com>

Subject: [2167] Re: Diode mixer question...

Message-ID: <1.5.4.32.19961017185406.00b3c938@freebird>

> Any want to venture a guess, I mean, tell why germaniums aren't good?

Who says germaniums aren't any good? My grandmother used to love germaniums -- she grew them in a box on the windowsill. It's one of my fondest childhood memories....

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996

From: "Dana H. Myers" <myers@bigboy.West.Sun.COM>

Subject: [2168] Re: Diode mixer question...

Message-ID: <Roam.3.0.845578411.17508.myers@bigboy>

> While showing it to NJ8V, Dewey, who works in an other building
> here at the Big School, he asked why I didn't try germanium diodes in the
> ring. He said that since they had a lower forward drop, they may be a
> better choice.

>

> My eyes glazed over as I thought for an answer... "Too much
> capacitance...? ummm, too much reverse leakage...?"

>

> "If they were good, they would have been used by now...", was the
> only sensible answer I could come up with.

>

>

> Any want to venture a guess, I mean, tell why germaniums aren't good?

They have a much greater reverse leakage, which almost certainly would reduce the performance of the mixer.

However, one has to ask "why is a lower forward voltage drop better?". The diodes in a balanced mixer ring are being used as switches, not rectifiers, and the forward voltage drop mostly seems to influence the necessary LO drive level. The considerably worse reverse bias isolation of the Ge diodes is a pretty big disadvantage when compared with the higher LO drive requirement of the Si diodes. I can't help but wonder if the Ge diodes would result in a compromised IMD characteristics, too.

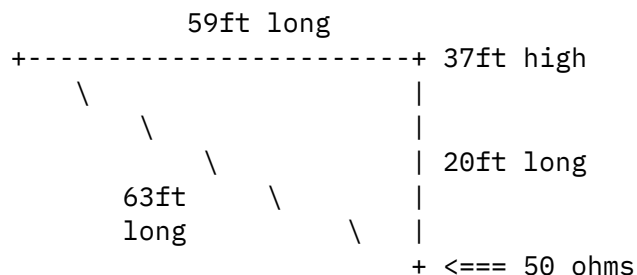
Dana KK6JQ
Dana@Source.Net

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Cecil A Moore <Cecil_A_Moore@ccm.ch.intel.com>
Subject: [2143] Re: Dipole or Vertical?

>>The burning question is should I put up a 40m dipole strung between
>>two trees (figure 35-40' on one end and 25' on the other) or should
>>I put up a 1/4 wave vertical next to a tree?

>You will probably find the dipole better for close in contacts, say 700
>miles or less while the vertical can do better for DX, say greater than
>700 miles or so.

Or you can put up this 40m triangular loop and get dipole and vertical performance in one antenna. It has 3dBi gain at low-to-high take-off-angles and has a horizontal beamwidth of 2x100 degrees.



73, Cecil, W6RCA, 00TC (not speaking for my employer)

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: "Chris J. Cartwright - ELF" <dsc3cjc@imc220.med.navy.mil>

Subject: [2116] Re: FOX Novice Mortified!
Message-ID: <Pine.3.89.9610170919.A4642-0100000@imc220>

On Thu, 17 Oct 1996, Barry Keating wrote:

```
>  ** Novice Fox Report for Wednesday, October 16th (local date) **  
<snip>  
> 0349 AE4IC BOB NC 229 54  
> Wow, only 4 contacts with complete information exchange. A hearty  
> thank you to the each of you who attempted contact but were thwarted by  
> static and/or my ability to decipher the signal to noise ratio.
```

As one of the thwarted, thank you VERY much. I've hunted all the novice foxes so far, and you are the only one I've heard and entire call out of. At about 0345Z you came tip-toeing into MD and continued to gain strength. This is the first time I've ever thought I had a decent chance at bagging a fox, but the clock ran out :(

And I gotta' find out more about AE4IC <hint, hint>, maybe I was listening too hard, or the had too much gain in the rig, but I had to pull the phones off to save the ears! Missed most of the exchange because of that. An honest to goodness 599+!

I'm gonna' get me one of dem' wascally wabbits... err... foxes.

```
-- Chris Cartwright N3XRV Gaithersburg, MD | dsc3cjc@imc220.med.navy.mil --  
-- EMPS QSO's=0 STATES(w/c)=0/0 DX=0 | QRP-L #655 QRP-ARCI #9271 --
```

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)
Subject: [2118] Re: FOX Novice Mortified!
Message-ID: <199610171346.NAA28608@chuck.dallas.sgi.com>

Barry,

I'm going to give you credit for five contacts. AA7WT was close enough.

I worked N9DD when he was down in the lower part of the 40m band. And at that time he was just above the noise level.

I too, as others have noted, could not help but notice how much QRN and noise there was. For some reason it seemed exceptionally severe.

You do not have to feel embarrassed at all. You did a great job under the most severe of conditions. I know that the entire group applauds your effort. We have all been there, that is those that get on the air at all even when propagation and noise levels are seemingly against you. We all get stage fright. You now know what it feels like to be on a DX-pedition and have a large number of other hams looking for you.

The foxhunt is probably the most severe of all activities that I know of. If everyone sits a minute and thinks about it where else do you spend more than 6 months trying to chase down some real low power signals? Other than chasing WAS or DXCC there are none. The contests like SS, FD, QTTF, and others are short. They may not seem like it at the time, but they are. There are not that many people who'd pursue this kind of activity for as long a period like we do. Maybe we all need some therapy but to me this is therapy. :-) Well maybe.

The entire community of QRPers should be proud that we have together some of the most untiring devoted group that seems to stick together through thick and thin. We seem to keep coming back for more every time.

So Barry, again, thanks for your effort and the effort of your fellow Novice and Tech+ friends. By May you will be ready for the code part with no problem. Be sure to take the time to study for the written. There will be a quiz. :-) Also on nites where there is a regular fox I'd recommend everyone go down and listen and practice copying all the calls. You'll have the memorized before you know it.

This posting to the qrp-l list to let others know that whether they like the activity or not, we are all here to help each other. It is or should be the goal of this group to help all who need help and further the QRP community as a whole. Without each other who else we gonna talk to?

Keep up the good work. That's why you are worth 5 points.

dit dit

: Chuck Adams (K5FO CP-60) WAS 40m/30m/20m=49/49/50
: EMPS QS0s=2 STATES(w/c)=2/0 DX=0
: MO TN

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Patrick Taber <ptaber@logicraft.com>

Subject: [2120] Re: FOX Novice Mortified!
Message-ID: <1.5.4.32.19961017140341.00995cf8@freebird>

At 08:02 AM 10/17/96 -0500, you wrote:

> ** Novice Fox Report for Wednesday, October 16th (local date) **
>
> This is the report of one humble novice fox this morning.
>
> I am truly mortified! The static last night on the 40 meter novice
>band was bad, but even so I am embarassed to post this short list of
>contacts. I guarantee that I will snag more the next time around (could I
>snag any less?).

No, no, no, no, no!!!! You musn't appologize! Every one of us, worked,
missed or taking a night off thank you and appreciate your being the Fox. So
you didn't get us all -- that's why we do this! You did great -- especially
since you didn't succumb to either Texas *or* California -- what a riot!

>>>=>PStJTT

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Bill Myers <bmyers@destin.nfds.net>
Subject: [2122] Re: FOX Novice Mortified!
Message-ID: <1.5.4.16.19961017092556.0ec712aa@destin.nfds.net>

At 01:46 PM 10/17/96 GMT, chuck adams wrote:

>This posting to the qrp-l list to let others know that whether they
>like the activity or not, we are all here to help each other. It
>is or should be the goal of this group to help all who need help
>and further the QRP community as a whole. Without each other who
>else we gonna talk to?
>
>Keep up the good work. That's why you are worth 5 points.

Couldn't have said it any better.....

72/73

--
Bill Myers KK4KF FISTS #2390 QRP-L #755 ARRL
Snail Mail P. O. Box 178
 Shalimar, FL 32579-0178
Grid EM60
e-mail <bmyers@destin.nfds.net>

homepage <http://destin.nfds.net/~bmyers/>

CHECK OUT THE FISTS INTERNATIONAL CW CLUB HOMEPAGE

<http://n9nvv.qrp.com/~fists>

^^^^ That's N 9 N V V

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996

From: "Michael A. Gipe" <mgipe@reliablemeters.com>

Subject: [2130] Re: FOX Novice Mortified!

Message-ID: <199610171521.KAA01478@multi2.pic.net>

Barry --

I tried. I really did. But by the time 0200 came along, 40 was nothing but QRN. Even with the ESP filter, I couldn't hear a peep. I think you did very well considering the conditions.

I think the only ones who had any decent propagation were the Texans.

Mike K1MG

Saratoga, CA

> From: Barry Keating <Barry.P.Keating.1@nd.edu>
> To: Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion <qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU>
> Subject: FOX Novice Mortified!
> Date: Thursday, October 17, 1996 6:02 AM
>
> ** Novice Fox Report for Wednesday, October 16th (local date) **
>
> This is the report of one humble novice fox this morning.
>
> I am truly mortified! The static last night on the 40 meter novice
> band was bad, but even so I am embarassed to post this short list of
> contacts. I guarantee that I will snag more the next time around (could I
> snag any less?).
>
> TIME STN NAME ST RST NR
>
> 0211 N2VPK MARK NY 349 314
> 0259 AA7WT MAL MT 559 ? faded out...
> 0311 KE4KDT ROY KY 559 322
> 0313 N9DD TOM IN 559 32
> 0332 K7RBJ ? NM ? ? heard 3

> times...
> 0349 AE4IC BOB NC 229 54
>
> Wow, only 4 contacts with complete information exchange. A hearty
> thank you to the each of you who attempted contact but were thwarted by
> static and/or my ability to decipher the signal to noise ratio.
>
> Barry Keating
> WD4MSM
>
>

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: "Bob Tellefsen-CNSE97" <Bob_Tellefsen-CNSE97@email.mot.com>
Subject: [2183] Re: FOX Novice Tonight
Message-ID: <M1105272.003.fw6o2.1.961017214000Z.CC-MAIL*/OU=LMPCC10/OU=ILBE/
PRMD=MOT/ADMD=MOT/C=US/@MHS>

Barry, WD4MSM
Sorry I wan't able to get on Wednesday night. I would have enjoyed working you
as a FOX. I hope you will do it again this season.

I envy you this opportunity, as we didn't have such activiites in my Novice
days back in '52. Heck, most folks were just discovering what a Novice was.
Anyway, 72 and hope to see you on the air.
Bob N6WG

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Joe Gervais <vole@primenet.com>
Subject: [2169] Re: Fox: XYL's question
Message-ID: <199610171904.MAA08890@primenet.com>

Mike (K1MG) wrote:

>
> My wife asked me a very good question last night: "Are there any vixen in
> the hunt? If not, why not?"

I'd hand her a Novice/Tech theory book and say,
"Tag - you're it." :-)

I'd assume since female engineers/programmers/etc. are
far more common these days (in the U.S.) than 15 years
ago, there would be more female hams. Then again I'm

not sure I've ever met an active female ham in the four years I've been licensed.

Are we doomed to be the Fraternal Order of Radio Nerds? :-)

Any female QRPers out there?

Cheers de KC7NEV,

-Joe, vole@primenet.com, AZ ScQRPions

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: "Michael A. Gipe" <mgipe@reliablemeters.com>
Subject: [2153] Re: FOX? What FOX???
Message-ID: <199610171719.MAA07691@multi2.pic.net>

Well, Dennis, the results aren't out yet, but judging from what I heard, California was trounced. I heard only myself and Stan W6ULU catch him from CA, but heard several Texans who got a big handful of fur. Texas was getting decent signal reports, too.

I didn't even hear the usual Californians calling. They must all have been doing their patriot duty listening to the rascal debate on Pro TV. The Texans were probably boycotting 'cause H. Ross couldn't play.

Sounds like we got some strong competition here!

Mike K1MG
Saratoga, CA

> From: W. Dennis Zeares <wdzeares@rockdal.aud.alcatel.com>
> To: Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion <qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU>
> Subject: FOX? What FOX???
> Date: Thursday, October 17, 1996 10:00 AM
>
> I hear there were two foxes last night.
> I couldn't find them!!!
> So whats the score now for TX vs CA???
> 72, dennis k3ets, Dallas

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: kd1jv@juno.com (STEVEN WEBER)
Subject: [2151] RE: HB: 8044 no more
Message-ID: <19960913.215831.5471.0.KD1JV@juno.com>

Discontinued. Bummer. I really hate when the current catalog lists a part that they don't have anymore.

I designed a neat little keyer using a small low power cmos cpu chip. 10 to 50 wpm. But got a bit carried away and added LCD display and eeprom message memory. Will decode and display your Morse keyed in with paddle or straight key.

Still got a couple of bugs in the program, but nothing serious. Suppose I could finish it up if anyone were interested, but my general feeling is the world really dosen't need yet another electronic keyer!

de KD1JV, Steve

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: "Michael A. Gipe" <mgipe@reliablemeters.com>
Subject: [2160] Re: HB: 8044 no more
Message-ID: <199610171735.MAA09336@multi2.pic.net>

Steve --

You may be right when you say the world doesn't need another keyer. On the other hand, none of the available solutions ever seems right when I want to build a small keyer into a homebrew rig. I am contemplating designing my own. Right now I need a tiny keyer to build into my 40-9er and all the solutions available are too fancy, too power hungry, too noisy, too large, and too expensive (compared to a \$25 40-9er), and require too many switches, displays, etc. I am working on a keyer using an 8 pin PIC (SOIC package) processor. Although I have developed my own algorithms for generating the characters, I first looked in the literature for ideas, especially for the memory and iambic features. I found a dearth of details, especially software listings. I would still like to look at other's designs to compare and learn. Do you have any suggestions? Did you find any useful information someplace I haven't looked?

> From: STEVEN WEBER <kd1jv@juno.com>
> To: Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion <qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU>
> Subject: RE: HB: 8044 no more
> Date: Friday, September 13, 1996 10:58 PM
>

> Discontinued. Bummer. I really hate when the current catalog lists a part
> that they don't have anymore.
>
> I designed a neat little keyer using a small low power cmos cpu chip. 10
> to 50 wpm. But got a bit carried away and added LCD display and eeprom
> message memory. Will decode and display your Morse keyed in with paddle
> or straight key.
>
> Still got a couple of bugs in the program, but nothing serious. Suppose I
> could finish it up if anyone were interested, but my general feeling is
> the world really dosen't need yet another electronic keyer!
>
> de KD1JV, Steve

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: "Michael A. Gipe" <mgipe@reliablemeters.com>
Subject: [2195] Re: HB: 8044 no more
Message-ID: <199610172330.SAA29691@multi2.pic.net>

Deal.

I've nicknamed it the NIT-PIC-KEY (by K1MG). It will be about the simplest, smallest, most basic keyer you can build -- no features. Makes dots and dashes, has sidetone, keys a transmitter, adjusts from 0 to 60 wpm. That's all. My hope is that it would be the VW bug of keyers, or better yet, the 40-9er of keyers.

The parts list is

- 8 pin PIC12C508-04/SM (8 pin SOIC package)
- one push button switch (to set speed, in conjunction with the keyer paddle)
- stereo mini phone jack (if desired) for paddle connection
- lithium battery or other 3 v power source
- enhancement mode MOSFET (SOT23 package) --OR-- npn transistor + resistor

You can be an alpha tester. Give me about two weeks to get the first draft done (I only have bits and pieces of spare time to work on it). Then I'll send you a copy. The first draft will not have iambic functions, but I think I'll have the hooks put in to add it easily.

After I send mine to you, I would love to take a look at your code. Maybe I'll learn some good tricks to add.

After it is reasonably complete, I will release it to everybody here -- source code and everything. There's no money to be made off of it, but I would like to see people use it if they can.

Mike K1MG

> Mike -
>
> Perhaps we can do a "show me yours and I'll show you mine". I can send
> you a copy of the source code for my WB9KZY keyer - it's 68HC05 code..
> In return I'd like to see your code for the new 8 pin PIC based keyer. I
> would only insist on your promise that you not give or show the code to
> any others. I would of course treat your code the same way. I'm still
> planning to release the code if / when I ever get an article published
> but until then I'd like to keep control over the source.
>
> I'd also appreciate any candid comments on my design - I thought that I'd
> get more interest in my \$5 keyer chip (offered on this list). In
> retrospect, the cost of the microcontroller is probably one of the
> smallest parts of the keyer - I can only claim that I was blinded by the
> light of a \$2.95 chip.
>
>
> Best Regards,
> Chuck Olson
> WB9KZY
> Jackson Harbor Press
> Washington Island, WI

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: ka7you@juno.com
Subject: [2100] Re: HB: Ugly construction
Message-ID: <19961016.234556.7142.2.KA7YOU@juno.com>

Tom,

It sounds like you are describing a "Whitney" punch. Years ago they were quite popular by that brand name. Mine will punch holes from 3/32 to 9/32 using a set of interchangeable dies. It says it is good up to 16 gauge, but I don't know how well it will punch PC board. I like your idea.

A similar tool is available from Northern Hydraulics in Burnsville, MN. I have the catalog. The item No is 14572-C111, and it is priced at \$17.95. It is on page 106 of their catalog #111. Phone 1-800-533-5545 to order. I have bought several things from them, with good results.

Rod Johnson KA7YOU NWQRP #120

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: "Bob Tellefsen-CNSE97" <Bob_Tellefsen-CNSE97@email.mot.com>
Subject: [2182] re: HELP: Filter design/analysis
Message-ID: <M1105270.001.fw6o0.1.961017213959Z.CC-MAIL*/OU=LMPCC10/OU=ILBE/
PRMD=MOT/ADMD=MOT/C=US/@MHS>

Daniel:

Another thing you might consider.

I have a lot of fun playing with the ARRL Radio Frequency Designer program, and have discovered a bit about double tuned filters.

If you use top coupling between the two tuned circuits, you often wind up with a very small capacitor of a value measured down to tenths of a pf. You also have a filter with somewhat of a high pass characteristic, in that the high side of resonance rolls off more slowly than the low side.

If you use bottom coupling with a capacitor, the rolloff is faster on the high side than low side, giving a somewhat low pass characteristic. This would certainly help with harmonic suppression also. I like bottom coupling, because you work with larger values of capacitance, and small variations don't seem to have much of an effect on the passband or rolloff. You can use several caps in parallel to get just the value you want, also. Variations in a small top coupling cap have a more noticeable effect.

If you use bottom coupling with an inductor, you again get the highpass pattern, as in top coupling with a capacitor.

I hope this gives you an idea that you can use.

72, Bob N6WG

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Byron8LCZ@aol.com
Subject: [2126] Re: Kenwood TS-850S QRP adjustments
Message-ID: <961017110104_1380446355@emout11.mail.aol.com>

In a message dated 96-10-17 08:20:37 EDT, you write:

<< Sometime in the past few months there was a posting indicating internal adjustments to the Kenwood TS-850S for QRP power ranges. Of course I didn't print it and of course my laptop hard drive crashed. Have restored a lot of

the program data but lost all of my saved mail messages. Could someone please send it to me at nn9k@worldnet.att.net?

Thanks in advance,

Pete, NN9K >>

Hi Pete,

The Kenwood TS-450, 690, 850, 950 all have two power controls. The PWR adjusts the final amp from 10 to 100 watts, the CAR control adjusts the exciter from 0 to 10 watts. By setting the PWR to minimum and the CAR to the 9 o'clock position, you will be running 5 watts output. The TS-450 is stable down to 5 milliwatts, perhaps lower, but I have made a QSO at 5 milliwatts and it performed flawlessly. The Kenwoods, right out of the box are excellent QRP radios. No internal adjustments needed. I believe "most" Yaesu's and Icom's won't go below 10w output.

72, Byron WA8LCZ Detroit

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Bob Hightower <ki7mn@dancris.com>
Subject: [2128] Re: Kenwood TS-850S QRP adjustments
Message-ID: <199610171514.IAA23495@dancris.com>

At 11:01 AM 10/17/96 -0400, you wrote:

>In a message dated 96-10-17 08:20:37 EDT, you write:

>

><< Sometime in the past few months there was a posting indicating internal
> adjustments to the Kenwood TS-850S for QRP power ranges. Of course I didn't
> print it and of course my laptop hard drive crashed. Have restored a lot of
> the program data but lost all of my saved mail messages. Could someone
> please send it to me at nn9k@worldnet.att.net?

>

> Thanks in advance,

>

> Pete, NN9K >>

>

>Hi Pete,

>

>The Kenwood TS-450, 690, 850, 950 all have two power controls. The PWR
>adjusts the final amp from 10 to 100 watts, the CAR control adjusts the
>exciter from 0 to 10 watts. By setting the PWR to minimum and the CAR to the
>9 o'clock position, you will be running 5 watts output.

One thing to add, if I may. If you need to use the tuner on the 450SAT, you

need to adjust it at higher power levels, or it will just sit there and grind away. Not sure if this is the best way to do it, but it is the way that works for me.

73,

Bob KI7MN NorCal 1221 ARCI 8918 Qrp-1 271 CQC 274 ARRL (Not in any order of importance!)

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996

From: wmcshan@REX.RE.uokhsc.edu (Mike McShan)

Subject: [2133] Re: Kenwood TS-850S QRP adjustments

Message-ID: <v01540b01ae8c02b731f0@[157.142.56.166]>

>and it performed flawlessly. The Kenwoods, right out of the box are excellent
>QRP radios. No internal adjustments needed. I believe "most" Yaesu's and
>Icom's wont go below 10w output.

>

>72, Byron WA8LCZ Detroit

I can't speak for Icom rigs, but my Yaesu FT747 can be turned down to 50 mW CW and less than one watt SSB. (Decreasing the SSB output does require a negative voltage input at the ALC, however).

Mike N5JKY

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996

From: Mike Heitmann <mike@hpanalog.mdc.com>

Subject: [2106] Re:magnifying lamp??

Message-ID: <32661BBB.2F173E06@hpanalog.mdc.com>

Hi Jeff,

I got one for my wife (she does counted cross stitch) at a local Service Merchandise store. I think the cost was about \$30.00.

It gets used alot at my house (and for MUCH more than cross sticthing).

73 de Mike, KF0SO

mike@hpanalog.mdc.com

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: "Denton Bramwell" <denton@cyber-west.com>
Subject: [2175] RE: microvolt RF measurements
Message-ID: <01BBBC3A.057FB080@async13_routerb_layton.cyber-west.com>

These are pretty tricky.... with some of the better oscilloscopes, you can get down in the 1 mV range, but, as you've found, still a challenge.

I wrote an as-yet unpublished article for QST (they want it, but I have been recovering from a move, doing double work duty, and don't have time to finish it--YET), that might be a help to you. The article describes a fairly simple, 50 ohm terminating type, RF power meter that works down to -50 dBmW = about 2 mV P-P = S9+23 dB. It's not hard to construct, and it's within a dB up to 2 meters. If you're interested, I'll send a schematic and draft of the article, as long as it doesn't get passed around before publication.

Denton
K7OWJ

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: "Chris J. Cartwright - ELF" <dsc3cjc@imc220.med.navy.mil>
Subject: [2117] Re: N/T+ EMPS ?
Message-ID: <Pine.3.89.9610170923.A4642-01000000@imc220>

The consensus seems to be 3.710 to about 3.715, and the Knightlites on Sundays. And of course all the "just do it and count them up later" responses. With almost 50 N/T+ on the list we could be busy down there :)

Many thanks to all who took the time to respond, this IS the best list on the net!

-- Chris Cartwright N3XRV Gaithersburg, MD | dsc3cjc@imc220.med.navy.mil --
-- EMPS QSO's=0 STATES(w/c)=0/0 DX=0 | QRP-L #655 QRP-ARCI #9271 --

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: "Dana H. Myers" <myers@bigboy.West.Sun.COM>
Subject: [2190] Re: new cmos cpu keyer

Message-ID: <Roam.3.0.845591603.10074.myers@bigboy>

> Jessem Crow....I guess the world does need another keyer, judging from
> the response all ready :-)
>
> Okay, got two possibilities here.
>
> I can make a basic iamic keyer, would be the 20 pin dip CPU, a xtal and
> driver transistor, maybe 1.5" x 1.5" board. Can set it up so goes into
> sleep mode after a few minutes then wakes up when you start to key. In
> sleep mode will draw about 100 ua, couple of mills when active. This
> version is so simple, can be wired on proto board in no time.

This wheel has already been invented. The CMOS Super Keyer II and III
have been around for several years, probably hastening the end of
Curtis ;-).

[...]

> Since I got to program the CPU chip, you will have to buy them through
> me, I'll keep the cost real low, under 10 bucks (\$9.95?) for the cpu.
> PC board and LCD would be extras, may or not want to supply these.

This is *just like* the Super Keyer II and III: you buy programmed
chips with no source code, or even object code AFAIK.

The smaller 20 pin DIP is appealing, but I believe the really
positive feature that we haven't seen yet would be:

**** Free source code available ****

Dana KK6JQ
Dana@Source.Net

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: "David F. Kurth" <dfk@col.hp.com>
Subject: [2196] Re: Op-amp Oscillator Article
Message-ID: <199610172332.AA106045129@quantum2.col.hp.com>

> Hi!
>
> I just got the October 10th edition of EDN magazine at work today. In the
> "Design Ideas" section on page 109, there's a short article by Charles Kitchin

> of Analog Devices about using the AD811AN video op amp as an oscillator.
> ...
> 73, Craig WB3GCK

> P.S. If I'm not mistaken, Charles Kitchin is the guy who published a design in
> EDN a while back for a simple regen receiver. It was the topic of some
> discussion on the list some time ago. I'm betting he's a ham!

How about:

N1TEV	KITCHIN, CHARLES B	LIC ISU 12-OCT-1994
TECH PLUS	26 CRYSTAL ST	LIC EXP 12-OCT-2004
DOB 6-APR-1947	BILLERICA MA 01866	LST UPD 12-OCT-1994

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: "Dean T. Miller" <dtmiller@dsmsnet.com>
Subject: [2097] Re: phone leaks
Message-ID: <9610170620.AA07287@dsms7.dsmsnet.com>

Hi Jay,

In a message to kt3a@juno.com (Cameron CR Bailey) and the QRP-L you wrote
(among other things):

>I hope no one is fool enough to try coupling RF into gas pipes or power
>lines.

Umm. Power lines are used quite frequently as an antenna. Quite a few
colleges have campus QRP AM broadcast stations that are coupled to the power
lines so students can receive the signal. Larger universities may have
several transmitters located at different places on campus for full coverage.

I worked at one station that had about 10, 10 watt AM transmitters. The
reason for so many transmitters was that most main distribution transformers
have (effectively or purposely) RF chokes in the power lines to prevent RF
distribution. However, at times these chokes were missing or ineffective,
because you could follow some power lines for miles and still pick up the
campus station (I think the longest run was about 10 miles from campus).

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: rcrampton@gtc.itt.com
Subject: [2112] Re: phone leaks

Message-ID: <26626360@gtc.itt.com>

>>I hope no one is fool enough to try coupling RF into gas pipes or power
>>lines.

>Umm. Power lines are used quite frequently as an antenna. Quite a few
>colleges have campus QRP AM broadcast stations that are coupled to the power
>lines so students can receive the signal. Larger universities may have
>several transmitters located at different places on campus for full
>coverage.

When I was in college, they did the same thing. (I just graduated last
year, 1995). They ran the AM station over the power lines in the dorms.

Also, an engineer at the local power company said they used the power
lines to send information along in a lot of cases. I don't know
exactly what they send, but I think he said they would use them for
voice lines.

I guess all the hams on the list are gonna install PL259 connectors on
their circuit breaker boxes and run coax from their shack!

73's,

Ray KN4SK

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Dale LeDoux <dledoux@laci.net>
Subject: [2202] Re: phone leaks
Message-ID: <1.5.4.16.19961017190604.0e7fd488@laci.net>

At 07:55 10/17/96 -0400, you wrote:

> Also, an engineer at the local power company said they used the power
> lines to send information along in a lot of cases. I don't know
> exactly what they send, but I think he said they would use them for
> voice lines.

>

> 73's,

>

> Ray KN4SK

>

The power company engineer is correct. It is quite common to use an rf
carrier in the <100 khz range to transmit data via power transmission lines,
and the terminal units for these systems generally have provision for voice
communication as well. The rf signal is coupled to the overhead line

through a coupling capacitor (nice-sized ones, rated for voltages like 138,000 or 230,000 volts) and the signal is isolated so that it travels in one direction only by means of a wavetrap (a tunable LC network the size of a 55-gallon drum) because you don't want a signal to trip the breaker at the far end of the line to get to the wrong circuit breaker. Cities get dark when that happens. Radiation of the signal is NOT a desired characteristic.

The signals are at QRP levels in some cases. Many of these systems are being replaced by fiber optic lines because they give so much additional bandwidth per installation. Perhaps one of these surplus units might yield some usable parts for a project, but there are richer grounds to search.

72--

Dale LeDoux
Bath Electrical Systems
Power Specialists -- 480 V to 230 KV
KD5QI -- QRP-L #602

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: launerb@crl.com (William H. Launer)
Subject: [2206] Re: phone leaks
Message-ID: <v01530504ae8c8aee50b1@[192.0.2.1]>

Union Electric has installed new meters here in St. Charles, MO that are remotely interrogated, so no meter reader has to go out and read them. I'm not sure how it's accomplished, but it seems to work - we haven't gotten any "estimated" bills since they installed ours!

72/73 Bill wb0cld

Bill Launer
St. Charles, MO
launerb@crl.com
wb0cld@wb0cld.ampr.org [44.46.66.25]
qrp-l #279 qrp arco #3551
Grid Square EM48RT

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996

From: "Bob Tellefsen-CNSE97" <Bob_Tellefsen-CNSE97@email.mot.com>
Subject: [2184] Re: plastic pipe and RF loss
Message-ID: <M1105271.002.fw6o1.1.961017213959Z.CC-MAIL*/OU=LMPCC10/OU=ILBE/
PRMD=MOT/ADMD=MOT/C=US/@MHS>

John:

Don't know about the plastic pipe, but I have built large airwound coils in the following manner.

1. Find a cardboard tube with the desired inside diameter of the coil.
2. Place 4 to 8 plastic strips around the cardboard tube, equally spaced, held on with "crazy glue" (cyanoacrylate (sp?)) at the ends. Make these strips longer than the coil, then you can cut off the glued ends later for a clean-looking coil.
3. Using large wire, depending on the amount of inductance you want and the ultimate coil size you want, wind the coil spaced approximately one wire diameter between turns. Add perhaps one or two extra turns, as it is easier to prune back than splice on.
4. Use the "crazy glue" at each point where wire crosses a plastic strip. APPLY THE GLUE TO ALTERNATE STRIPS! Eventually you want the in-between strips to drop away, leaving only four equally-spaced strips holding the coil together.
5. After the glue has hardened, measure the inductance. You can do it directly with an Autek RF-1 or equivalent. You can also make a series circuit with a known capacitor and check resonance with an RF noise bridge set for zero ohms impedance. With this approach you have to calculate the L knowing the frequency and the C, but it gets you there. Remove turns as needed to get the exact inductance desired.
6. Once the coil has the value you want, hit all the "crazy glue" spots one more time.
7. Once the glue has hardened, use a hacksaw to shorten the plastic strips, cutting away the ends glued onto the cardboard tube. If you cut all the way through the tube, you can remove both ends altogether.
8. Once the glue is hard, carefully crunch the cardboard tube down enough to pull it out without disturbing the coil. The unglued strips will fall out at this point.

You now have a homemade coil roughly equivalent to a large piece of B & W Miniductor. Q should be fairly high, probably over 300 depending on size, etc.

Good luck and 72,
Bob N6WG

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996

From: "duane" <duane@flinet.com>
Subject: [2099] Re: plastics at RF
Message-ID: <199610170700.DAA08362@shell.flinet.com>

just for everyones information PVC material when burning in a fire does give off a very tox. gas. It won't kill you right away but in short order none the less. I can't remark about in a microwave but i think i would stay away from that one. I learned this about PVC while in my Law enforcement Class, the instructor for this given class was a fire Marshall who knew of 3 fireman who died as a result of breathing the gas from burning PVC during a fire.

Duane AB4BE
<http://www.flinet.com/~duane>
duane@flinet.com
ab4be@amsat.org

> From: L. B. Cebik <cebik@utkux.utcc.utk.edu>
> To: Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion <qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU>
> Subject: RE: plastics at RF
> Date: Wednesday, October 16, 1996 8:00 PM
>
> On Wed, 16 Oct 1996, Denton Bramwell wrote:
> > ABS and PVC are quite lossy at RF. You're much better off using
> > polyethylene, if you can find it. If you have a piece of unknown
plastic, and
> > want to test it for loss, pop it in the microwave for a minute or so.
If it
> > gets hot, it's lossy.
> > Denton
> > K7OWJ
> >
> If it gets hot, it is certainly lossy at microwave frequencies. But not
> all plastics behave the same at HF as at microwave frequencies. Would
> like some data source about PVC, CPVC, and related plastics at HF and
VHF.
> I believe there is a J-pole encased in PVC on the market and the builders
> apparently did not find it too lossy at 2M to use in this application.
> Wonder if there is a standard test that could be performed. Also, if
> anyone does the microwave test, be sure the test piece is clean and dry
> inside and out. And be sure that the plastic will not sublimate toxic
> gasses. Clean the microwave thoroughly before using it for food.
>
> -73-
>
> LB, W4RNL
>

>
>

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Dave.Ackrill@Westwood45.powergen.co.uk
Subject: [2111] Re: S-Meter Standard?
Message-ID: <961017123239Z*/G=Dave/S=Ackrill/O=Westwood45/PRMD=POWERGEN/
ADMD=CWMAIL/C=GB/@MHS>

My vote would be to put a strip of black tape over the S-Meter.

Even the S-Meter calibration on different models of rigs from the same manufacturers are often different from what I read in the reviews.

I once had a CW contact on 144MHz, whilst running 2.5W, with someone who gave me the "report" of 509. When asked, during the QS0, why he had given me this report since he could quite evidently hear me, he said "because you're not moving the S-Meter" !!

de Dave (G0DJJA)

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Paul Harden <pharden@aoc.nrao.edu>
Subject: [2043] Re: S-Meter Standard?
Message-ID: <199610161915.NAA09998@zia.aoc.nrao.edu>

For what it's worth ...

>An S-unit is a change in signal strength VOLTAGE of 6dB.

Hi Paul, that's what it is supposed to be. We did a survey of transceivers on r.r.a.a and the average 'S' unit on the average ham transceiver is approximately 4 dB. However, 2 dB equalled one 'S' unit on some transceivers in some ranges. The 'S' unit meter on any single transceiver is not even consistent. On r.r.a.a we have re-named the 6 dB 'S' unit the "Sterba".

Question is: which 'S' unit actually exists in reality?

73, Cecil, W6RCA, 00TC (not speaking for my employer)

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Stew Whitehouse <76443.501@CompuServe.COM>
Subject: [2166] Re: S-Meter Standard?
Message-ID: <961017183808_76443.501_GHN55-1@CompuServe.COM>

Hi Dave,

The Ten-Tec OMNI VI Operators manual states that the OMNI S meter is calibrated at 50uV for an S9 reading. It does not say where the 50uV is measured and one can only assume (spell that ass-u-me) that the measurement is taken at the antenna terminal.

My Yaesu FT-726R Technical Supplement sez to "connect the signal generator to the ANT jack, and set for an output level of 20 dBu (100uV?) and adjust ... for S9 deflection on the S-meter" That's for SSB adjustment. For FM adjustments that same 20 dBu at the ANT jack calls for a S9+30dB reading!

And, probably best of all is the Icom IC-740 manual. It simply states that signal strength is indicated on a scale of S1-S9, and S9 to S9+60dB.

I also have a Drake R4B receiver manual around here somewhere. I'll dig around for it and see what it has to say.

All in all, Dave I don't think there is a standard, much less a consensus.

In my twenty years in Naval communications I never did see an "S-Meter".

Nor, do I recall ever having to report received signal strength based on any kind of rf meter reading! Such reports were always subjective and based on the operator's judgement.

Just my three cents worth.

72/3 Stew ke4yh
Dunedin, Florida

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Dale LeDoux <dledoux@laci.net>
Subject: [2203] Re: S-Meter Standard?
Message-ID: <1.5.4.16.19961017190607.23770528@laci.net>

At 14:38 10/17/96 EDT, you wrote:

>In my twenty years in Naval communications I never did see an "S-Meter".

>Nor, do I recall ever having to report received signal strength based on

>any kind of rf meter reading! Such reports were always subjective and based

>on the operator's judgement.

>Just my three cents worth.

>

>72/3 Stew ke4yh

>Dunedin, Florida

>

Stew--

None of the Army hardware that I used had an "S-meter" either...If anyone asked, we called it like we heard it. Personal favorite was "I receive you 2 by 2: Too d***ed loud and too d***ed often..."

72--

Dale LeDoux

Bath Electrical Systems

Power Specialists -- 480 V to 230 KV

KD5QI -- QRP-L #602

From owner-qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996

From: "L. B. Cebik" <cebik@utkux.utcc.utk.edu>

Subject: [2200] Re: S-Meter Standard? (longer than I intended)

Message-ID: <Pine.SOL.3.94.961017195820.18462C-100000@utkux4.utcc.utk.edu>

On 17 Oct 1996, Stew Whitehouse wrote:

> All in all, Dave I don't think there is a standard, much less a consensus.

This is a correct statement. The S9=50 micovolts and 6 dB/S-unit were proposed as a manufacturing standard in the late 1940s and NEVER accepted by the manufacturers. They well knew the problems of implementing the standard. a. How does one separate the contribution of noise from signal for a given bandwidth, which varies along the reception chain? b. How does one equalize the gain of all stages on all frequencies of reception? Since most S-meter circuits are either derived directly from the AGC line or from a circuit that is independent but mimics the AGC, the resultant voltage is usually a function of all contributions within the passband of the circuitry feeding the rectification/amplification system, which varies not only from one receiver to the next, one band to the next, one setting to the next, but as well from one set of amplifying/mixing devices to the next. I am certain that a receiver with a meter adequate to the task can be designed (with supplemental standards for bandwidth for each type of signal, etc.), but it would likely require a separate receiving chain for the S-meter from the one used to extract intelligence from the signal.

Hence, the proposed standard that was never accepted is useful for many purposes in general discussions of receiver performance, signal levels, and the like, but we should not expect any receiver to have a meter that comes close to that standard.

Moreover, the proposed standard is at logical deviance from the RST standard of reporting (apart from any numerical deviance). The RST standard permits values of only 1 through 9, with S1 covering the level of lowest perceptibility. Anything perceptible and reportable is at least S1. By starting at S-9 and working downward, the proposed standard would permit values of S-0 and lower. Likewise, the RST standard ends at S9 with extremely strong signals, already a warning to those who adhere to regulations to reduce power. The proposed standard permits S-9 + xxx dB.

The RST standard is based on a system that requires the application of trained and experienced judgment on the part of operators, not on meter readings. I remember adding a modified Heathkit Q-multiplier to a Drake R-2 and working a Johnson Island station on 20. With the Q multiplier in, he was S3; out he was not perceptible; the meter never moved in either case, but the QSO was a half hour solid copy affair. What did my report tell him? It informed him that he was weak but clearly readable, with the proviso that probably only a little QSB might end the QSO or that a little drift might also end it--important information from the perspective of deciding whether we had a routine exchange of reports or a friendly chat--he took the chance, knowing that the 2 AM 20 meter band was stable and so was his rig. The 559 he gave me told me that I was the one who had to do the work of ensuring that he stayed within the very narrow passband of my receiver and accessory--easily done on the very stable R-2. The RST reports conveyed valuable communications information for that communications situation. The S-meter, while helpful in other circumstances, was no help here, nor was it a substitute for experienced operator judgment that included a practiced feel for what sorts of information had to be conveyed in this encapsulated form.

For lab tests and even field tests of receivers, we do not need an S-unit system: we can directly use signal levels, whether expressed in microvolts or dBm or whatever, processed through appropriate precision equipment.

The proposed S-unit system does have application in general discussions, for example in claiming that a certain antenna has a null that is at least 3 S-units down--a way of saying about 18 dB without trying to convey excessive precision inherent in someone trying to say a 19 dB null is somehow significantly better. But that kind of talk is designed to instill approximate but reasonable expectations in someone who might buy or build the antenna in question. It is not designed to be or to compete with a lab report.

Each standard has its own proper and best use. The 6 dB S-unit is useful in general discussions. The microvolt or dBm is useful in precision tests. The RST Standard is useful in conveying to another operator useful communications situation information. The S-meter is a semi-useful adjunct to the RST system (it used to be used mostly for aligning the

receiver in AM/CW days). But let the operator control the situation, not the meter, not the other way around. Operators communicate, meters do not.

-73-

LB, W4RNL

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: David D. Meacham <ddm@datatamers.com>
Subject: SLV confusioelectrical length. Similarly

Gang,
To me it is obvious that the SLV is a BASE FED, BASE-LOADED VERTICAL,
WITH LINEAR-LOADED RADIALS.

The MECHANICAL (lineal) length is 66 feet, NOT the ELECTRICAL length.
Since 50 feet or so of conductor is wound into a BASE-LOADING COIL, one cannot count that as electrical length. By the same token, the radials are folded back on themselves and cannot be considered as electrical lengths. This folding back acts as "linear loading" ala KLM KT-34, etc.

My purpose is NOT to disparage the SLV, but only to clarify some of the terms being used.

I plan to affix a lightweight "capacitive hat" to the top of my pole. Immediately under that will be an AIR-DUX loading coil slipped over the pole, followed by the down-lead wire, all this resonated on 40 or 30m as a vertical quarter-wave against radials. The idea is to get the loading up high so the 15 feet of wire carries lots of current, increasing the efficiency.

72, Dave, W6EMD

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996
From: Cecil A Moore <Cecil_A_Moore@ccm.ch.intel.com>
Subject: [2137] Re: SLV Questions

>I'm not a particularly technical person but trust my responses address

>the questions. The multi-band SLV is much simpler than it first
>appears, if that makes sense. 73 de Dave, NF0R nf0r@slacc.com

Hi Dave, another popular length for this type of antenna is 88ft,
a $2\frac{5}{8}$ wavelength on 20m. According to Walter Maxwell, any length
above $\frac{3}{8}$ wavelength is a pretty good non-resonant antenna.

EZNEC will do a reasonable job of analyzing an antenna like this.
It will tell you close to the SWR to expect and, using the
transmission line feature, will allow one to locate the current
maximum (usually a good feedpoint) and get a close approximation
to the impedance seen by the Xmtr or tuner. It will also tell
you the radiation pattern, the importance of which should not be
underestimated.

73, Cecil, W6RCA, 00TC (not speaking for my employer)

From owner-qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU Thu Oct 17 23:11:38 1996

From: NZ8J <timcook@erinet.com>

Subject: [2191] Re: Which logging program??

Message-ID: <3266B534.7B85@erinet.com>

Bruce Pea wrote:

>

> I'm starting to accumulate qsl cards and figure its time to start putting
> them into a logging program (been keeping my log on yellow legal pads up to
> now!). I've looked at a few shareware sites and was amazed to find so many
> programs available.

>

> Can someone give me a pointer to a couple of the better ones to check out?
> What's everyone using these days, DOS, Windows?? A decent windows program
> would be nice to go along with the propagation program and some other
> things. I did look at one windows log program and took it off my system, it
> was hopelessly cluttered and very user unfriendly.

>

> Thanks for the pointers.

>

> 72/73

>

> Bruce, N9WKE

Bruce,

I have been using Logic for about the past 5 or 6 years. It is a very
powerful program. IT is available in both DOS and windows versions. Also
another very good program is WJ20 logging program. It is dos only, but
you can use a mouse with it. Both advertise in QST and both have Web
Pages.

Tim
NZ8J